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# THE TIMES

No 62,329 TUESDAY DECEMBER 24 1985 25p


THE TIMES 1785-1985

## Friday

**Boxing Day sport**
The King George VI steeplechase at Kempton Park, plus full football and rugby reports

**From the front**
What a father wrote to his baby son before he went to war

**The forgotten illness**
Readers reply to our series on schizophrenia

## Portfolio

**Yesterday's Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was won by Mr M. Wilsher of London. Portfolio list page 16.**

## Skiers face snow shortage

European ski resorts are using snow-making machines to patch up the pistes as the mild weather continues and holiday-makers hope for a cold snap, so far not forecast Back page

## Coffee prices to rise about 10p

Nestlé instant coffee is to rise *about 10p for a 100-gramme jar* next month, it was announced yesterday. General Foods, which produces Maxwell House, Birds powdered coffee and Cafe Hag, the decaffeinated coffee, said its prices would rise soon Page 13

## Alleged fraud

A conspiracy to defraud claim which could lead to punitive damages of $63 million (£44 million), has been filed in New York against a United States insurance broker, Alexander & Alexander, and Alexander Howden, its British subsidiary Page 13

## Housing cuts

*Up to two thousand building* jobs are at risk because of cuts in Northern Ireland's public housing programme, an industry spokesman claimed Page 2

## Rates reform

Plans to replace rates with a new local tax in the next decade are to be published in the new year, but legislation is unlikely before the next election Page 2

## Famine appeal

Princess Anne has appealed for more funds to buy emergency food to help to avert renewed famine in drought-sticken areas of Sudan Page 3

## American freed

An American of Palestinian origin held for questioning in Cyprus about an attempt last week to smuggle guns hidden in wine bottles on to a Swiss airliner, was freed *yesterday*.

## Soviet meeting

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov and Chinese Vice-Premier Li Peng *discussed Sino-Soviet relations* and other issues of mutual interest during a meeting in Moscow.

## ITV talks

Talks aimed at settling the television electricians' dispute continued *last night. A threat of* disruption over Christmas has been lifted, but an overtime ban after the holiday is still possible.

## Insurance rise

A spate of burglaries is pushing up insurance premiums and making it almost *impossible for* people in some inner cities to afford cover for their house contents Page 3

## Israeli squeeze

The handicapped, pensioners and young families are all hit by new Israeli measures intended to keep the country's austere *economic programme on target* Page 5

## The Times

*The Times* will not be published tomorrow or on Boxing Day. The next issue will be on Friday.


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# Bomb kills six whites in South Africa beach resort

**From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg**

South Africa's racial strife appeared to be moving into a new and more vicious phase as a bomb exploded in a crowded shopping centre in a beach resort south of Durban yesterday, killing at least six people, all of them whites.

Only two days earlier, 13 people, mainly whites, were injured by a limpet mine which had been attached to the rear wheel of a minibus parked in a Durban street. No organization has yet claimed responsibility for either explosion.

The Minister of Law and Order, *Mr Louis Le Grange*, who visited the site of yesterday's blast, blamed the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), alleging that the bombing was in line with the ANC's new policy of going for "soft civilian targets, such as the killing of men, women and children".

Mr Le Grange, who is on holiday in the area himself and was dressed in shorts and casual shirt, declared: "The police will get the murderer or muderers and the law will take its course."

*The explosion occurred* at 11am in a shopping centre at Amanzimtoti, a beach resort popular with whites a few miles south of Durban. It is thronged at this time of year with high summer Christmas holiday-makers, and the shopping centre was packed with pre-Christmas customers.

Police headquarters in Pretoria said *the six dead consisted of* three boys and three women, with 24 injured, both white and black. Unconfirmed reports put the toll at seven ded and 46 injured, some critically. The bomb is reported to have been left in a rubbish bin next to a wall.

Of the 370 or so bomb attacks in South Africa since 1976, when the ANC renewed its bombing campaign after a decade of little activity, more *than 20 per cent have occurred* in the Durban area, which is close to Mozambique.

The use of Mozambique as an infiltration route for ANC guerrillas was thought to have been severely curtailed by the Nkomati non-aggression pact signed by South Africa and Mozambique in March 1984.

The stepping-up of attacks by *insurgents in the Durban area* could mean that the ANC has established internal bases in black areas of Natal, that infiltration has resumed once more through Mozambique or that the ANC is no longer in control of young militants in the field.

The bomb attacks seem certain to precipitate a spiral of violence. Last week's raid on Maseru, in Lesotho, in which six ANC members were killed, *is believed to have* been an act of revenge for the landmine killings, though South Africa *still officially* denies responsibility for it. Now further reprisals for the latest white deaths seem certain.

Meanwhile, informed sources in Pretoria said yesterday that a South African operation inside Angola, in pursuit of guerrillas *fighting for the independence of* South African-occupied Namibia, is still going on. It began more than a week ago. No official information is available.

The Durban bomb is arguably the most indiscriminate act of urban terror to date, *except in so far as it seems to* have been aimed mainly at whites. It has long been predicted that pressure on the ANC leadership from impatient younger members of the organization to attack white civilians directly would become irresistible.

The Pretoria car bomb of 1983, which killed 19 people and injured more than 200, could claim a non-civilian target in that it exploded outside the headquarters of the Air Force, though most of the victims were in fact civilians, and mostly black.

Mrs Mandela freed, page 5



**The familiar around-the-clock police vigil outside 10 Downing Street takes on an unfamiliar glow beside a Christmas tree given by Norway (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).**

# Sikorsky waits as Westland views rival bid

**By Philip Webster and Judith Huntley**

Sikorsky, the American end *of the United Technologies-Fiat* rescue offer for the Westland helicopter firm, has no intention *of making an improved* offer at the moment to beat off the competition from the rival European consortium favoured by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence.

That emerged yesterday as members of the Westland board met in London to give their first consideration to the £73.1 million European deal and decided to ask the consortium for further information on key points in their offer, a move welcomed by government backers of the European option.

During an apparent lull in the Whitehall battle over the Westland rescue, Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank advising Sikorsky, said last night: "There is no possibility of upping the offer for Westland at the *moment.*"

The statement came amid rumours in the market that *Sikorsky and Fiat, who have* agreed a £72.2 million reconstruction package with the Westland board, *will* increase their offer in the light of the rival deal.

Lloyds Merchant Bank, advising the Europeans expressed anger last night that Westland is pressing ahead with the meeting on January 14, 1986, at which shareholders will be asked to vote for or against the American/Italian offer in spite *of the alternative* and financially better deal put forward by the consortium.

Lloyds is "astonished" that Westland's board has not delayed the vote until shareholders have been given a chance to consider the European package. But the meeting was fixed before the European offer was made.

Westland has asked Lloyds for clarification of certain matters in the consortium's offer including guarantees of work from the European companies which include GEC, British Aerospace, MBB of West Germany, Agusta of Italy and Aerospatiale of France. The consortium is offering 3.3 million man hours of work over five years against 1 million man hours over three years guaranteed by Sikorsky/Fiat.

Lloyd's is being pressed by Westland to come up with firm guarantees of work for the company's long suffering employees. But the deal is complicated by the fact that Aerospatiale is threatening to withdraw existing work from Westland *if the company* accepts the Sikorsky/Fiat package.

*The argument over the merits* of both offers also centres around the potential of rival military helicopters. Westland's board, which invited the Sikorsky/Fiat proposal, favours the Black Hawk machine built by the Americans. But the Prime Minister has made it clear that no orders are likely to be forthcoming from the British Government.

Mr Robert Fleming, Westland's largest shareholder, will *be examining the European* offer closely over Christmas but was unable to comment on it *last night. Nor would the* company be drawn on whether the Americans and Italians will increase their offer for Westland but the door has not been closed on the possibility.

Supporters within the Government of the European *rescue deal were voicing confi*dence last night that it would stand up to Westland's scrutiny and welcomed the company's decision to ask for clarification

Continued on back page, col 1

# General dies in Basque reprisal raid

**From Richard Wigg**
**Madrid**

**A retired Spanish army general with long service in the Civil Guard was shot dead in *Pamplona yesterday a day after* large demonstrations over the mysterious death of a young *Basque while in police custody.***

**The killing of General Juan Atares Peña, aged 67 and known for his extreme right-wing views, appeared to be an act of revenge by a commando of ETA, the Basque separatist organization.**

**On Sunday 20,000 people had paraded through the city with banners accusing the paramilitary Civil Guard of torturing Mikel Zabaltza, aged 32, to death after he had been arrested *on suspicion of helping ETA.***

**The general, who never accepted a bodyguard in spite of living in a region racked by Basque terrorism, was shot in the head and back by a young man and woman as he was out for his regular walk near his home in central Pamplona, witnesses said.**

**General Atares achieved notoriety throughout Spain in 1978 when he publicly insulted General Manuel Gutierrez *Mellado, then deputy Prime* Minister and Minister of defence, calling him a "traitor" and a "trickster". The general was court-martialled, detained for six months and retired early.**

**Tension in Spain's northern region was also heightened yesterday by appeals by Basque leaders to international bodies to help shed light on the death of Zabaltza, whose body still handcuffed, was found eight days ago in the Bidassoa River, near the French frontier.**

**A public appeal signed by the chairman of the ruling Basque Nationalist Party, rejected the Government account of events and urged the European Parliament, Amnesty International, and the United Nations to take up the case as a matter of *priority.***

**● LISBON: The Autonomous Revolutionary Group (GAR), a Portuguese left-wing splinter group, claimed it bombed the Lisbon ticket office of the Spanish national airline Iberia yesterday to protest against the death of Zabaltza. No one was hurt in the explosion, which blew out the offices shopfront.**

# Moscow 'still guilty of arms violations'

**From Michael Binyon, Washington**

President Reagan told Congress yesterday that the Soviet *Union had still not satisfied his* concerns on its violations of arms control, chemical warfare, and other agreements.

In his annual report on Soviet compliance with arms control treaties, he said he had expressed his personal concern directly to Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, at the Geneva summit last month. But Moscow had taken *no action to* correct existing violations, and had instead asserted that it was *in "complete compliance" with* its arms control obligations.

US officials yesterday dismissed as propaganda the angry denials by Tass and the agency's accusation that the charges were "a fresh propaganda fraud." The swift Soviet reaction, based *on leaks of the report before it* was published and sent to Congress, said the aim of the *US charges was to justify the* large-scale US military build-up.

The White House yesterday released an unclassified summary of the voluminous report. Mr Reagan underlined the strong consensus in both parties on the importance of *compliance to seeking effective arms* control agreements.

He said the Russians had made military gains in strategic offensive arms as well as chemical, biological and toxin weapons. He said the Russians may also have violated the threshold test ban treaty banning underground explosions above the 150 kilotonne limit.

● *TALKS CALL: Dr David* Owen, leader of the social Democrats, last night called for a meeting early in the new year between British and Russian foreign ministers to discuss a comprehensive ban on the testing of nuclear weapons (Stephen Goodwin writes).

The test ban negotiations are the only East-West arms talks in *which Britain is directly in*volved with the Soviet Union and the United States. Dr Owen is anxious that Britain make a distinctive contribution independant of the United States.

"There have been too many signs in recent years of that *independant position of nuclear* politics being eroded," he said

Dr Owen made his plea for bilateral talks with the Soviet Union in a letter to the Prime Minister. He asked Mrs Margaret Thatcher to arrange for Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary to meet his Soviet counterpart, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, early in the new year to discuss how negotiations over a test ban treaty can be resumed.



**Dr Owen: Plea for test ban *talks with Moscow***

*Row flares, page 5*

# US farm crisis forces Reagan into U-turn

**From Our Own Correspondent, Washington**

**In a final pre-Christmas legislative flourish aimed at winning support in the depressed and snow-covered farm belt, President Reagan yesterday signed two costly farm Bills to restructure the govern*ment-backed farm credit sys*tem and to continue subsidies.**

**Signing the two Bills in the presence of Mr John Block, the Agriculture Secretary, Congressional leaders and television cameras, Mr Reagan said the farmers' plight had been a major concern to his Administration. The reforms moved away from failed legislation of the past and would ensure a steady supply of credit to America's farmers.**

**Praising, in a quotation from Cicero, the dignity and freedom of farm life, Mr Reagan said: "If things do not go well down on the farm, things cannot go well in our cities."**

**His new-found commitment, however, marks yet another U-*turn in his policy, forced on him* by the publicity surrounding the worst crisis on the farms since the Great Depression and fears of an impending political disaster for the Republicans in the conservative farm belt.**

**The support Bill covers a *five-year period. In the first* three years it will provide $52 billion (£37 billion) for commodity programmes $2 billion more than Mr Reagan's original target. The other Bill reorganizes the federally chartered, farmer-owned farm credit system, which holds one-third of the huge farm debt. This has been placed under great strain recently by the rash of farm bankruptcies.**

# Paris offers damages to Greenpeace

**Paris (Reuter) – France has agreed to pay damages to the environmentalist group Greenpeace for the sinking of its protest ship Rainbow Warrior, an External Relations Ministry spokesman said last night.**

**The Government, acknowledging responsibility for the July mining of the ship in Auckland harbour and the death of a Greenpeace crewman, had agreed to open negotiations to settle the amount of compensation owed, he said.**

**If no settlement was reached within 90 days, either party could submit the dispute to international adjudication by a tribunal of three impartial and independent arbitrators in Geneva, he said.**

**The statement followed an announcement of the deal by Mr David McTaggart, the Greenpeace International chairman. He said it was negotiated by M Daniel Soulez Larivière, special counsel for the French Government, and Mr Lloyd Cutler, special counsel for Greenpeace.**

**M Soulez Larivière was the defence lawyer for two French secret agents serving 10-years in jail in New Zealand for the sinking of the boat and the death of a Greenpeace crewman, Fernando Pereira.**

# Hopes rise for Jewish emigration

**From Susan MacDonald**
**Paris**

Talks were being held on Soviet Jews wanting to emigrate to Israel, M Edgar Bronfman, the president of the World Jewish Congress, said yesterday.

He declined to comment on the nature of the talks but said they could be seen in a favourable light, although it was impossible to say when the Soviet authorities might authorize Soviet Jews to emigrate.

Some nespapers, including *The Times* and *Time* magazine have already said negotiations could be under way involving the USSR, Israel, Poland and France.

The Israeli Prime Minister, *Mr Shimon Peres*, appeared optimistic on a visit to France last month that emigration *might take place and said* France had offered to provide the air transport.

*It also has been hinted that* the Jewish emigration question formed part of the talks between *General Jaruzelski* and President Mitterrand, during the Polish head of state's visit to Paris at the beginning of December. But *Le Monde* yesterday reported that a reliable source had said the emigration question was not discussed.

Other Jewish organizations in France have had reservations on the subject.

# Swansea City can kick off again

Swansea City Football Club were yesterday granted a stay of execution by a High Court *judge (Stuart Jones writes).* Mr Justice Scott has given a group of former directors of the third division club, *which was wound* up last Friday with debts amounting to more than £1.5 million, until January 13 to clear the necessary financial arrears.

The reprieve, which will allow the club to play five League matches, is conditional on "money being made immediately available by the directors". At the request of the *Official Receiver*, the court also appointed Swansea's chartered accountant, Jeffrey Payne, to act as the club's business manager.

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# All stations aglow as the trains stop

**By Stephen Goodwin**

Christmas night may be silent on the rail network but the station lights will blaze bright as ever.

A Consevative MP last night described the illumination as a "scandalous waste", but British Rail disagrees. "It is the best way of doing the job for 364 days a year," BR says and it is making no exceptions.

There will be lights in stations, signal lights will be on and power will be running through the overhead and "third" lines. There will be no trains from 11pm on Christmas Eve, or on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

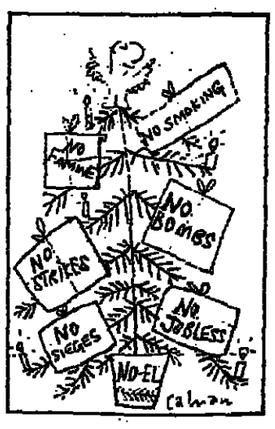
*Mr Peter Bruinels*, Conservative MP for Leicester East, has written a last-minuted plea to Mr Bob Reid, British Rail chairman, for some economies in electricity over the Christmas shutdown.

"It is horrifying. How much money will be wasted over the holiday period?" Mr Bruinvels asks. "At a time when British Rail says it is going to have to put up fares it should at least be good house-managers."

Mr Brinvels maintains that hundreds of thousands of pounds will be spent unnecessarily. Hi accepts that for security reasons, a few lights should remain. But, he says: "There is surely no need to have *the entire system*, signals and all, blazing as if a train was due, when no train is going to come?"

When he took the matter up with Mr David Mitchell, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Transport with responsibility for railways, he was told Christmas lighting was an operational matter for BR.

To the railway it *is not just a* matter of flicking a switch. At the small stations they can, and do, say: "Will the last *man to* leave the station, please turn off the lights." Elsewhere is is more complex.




At the board's *headquarters* they knew it was complex, though they were short on specifics. Railway police are patrolling and so some lights have to be on for security, then there was the problem of lights on time switches and, most *importantly, getting everything* turned back on again.

"Special arrangements would have to be made and men would have to come in. It would probably cost us more to have lights switched off and back on again than to leave things alone", the board said. It was unable to furnish comparative costs.

Mr Bruinvels was not swayed by such argument. "Absolutely feeble", he said. "It shows just how mad they are. They should be more cost conscious."

Rail fares rise on January 12 by an average of just over 8 per *cent.*

## Disputes halt Christmas ferry services

**By Donald Macintyre**

Townsend Thoresen said last night its cross-Channel ferry services from Dover would not sail before next weekend at the *earliest after a meeting of Dover* seamen failed to break the deadlock in the 10-day-old pay dispute.

The meeting of National Union of Seamen members approved a call for a fresh approach to management over *its claim for increased holiday* entitlement as the last hope disappeared of any sailings before Christmas.

Meanwhile Newhaven-*Dieppe ferries* were halted by a separate dispute. Dieppe Ferries said there would be no sailings by the company until after Christmas.

Fares discord, page 2


LIBERTY SALE
STARTS FRIDAY DEC 27
9am-7pm. SAT 9am-6pm
SALE
STARTS FRIDAY DEC 27
9am-7pm. SAT 9am-6pm
SALE
STARTS FRIDAY DEC 27
9am-7pm. SAT 9am-6pm
REGENT STREET LONDON W1
Tel: 01-734 1234

# Ministers may press for extended discussion on plan to reform rates

By Colin Hughes, Local Government Correspondent

Plans to kill off household rates gradually through the 1990s will be published early in the new year as a green paper.

The long-awaited proposals will, however, be tentative. Department of Environment ministers are expected to encourage a long consultation and discussion period, with no legislation before the next election.

They will, therefore, represent only a partial fulfilment of the Prime Minister's election pledge to abolish rates and replace them with a fair system of local taxation.

Pressure for rate reform has been a constant undertow within local government circles for years. The arcane complexities of the present system, creating regional and individual anomalies, makes it unpopular with local politicians.

Ministers are, however divided. Welsh, Scottish, and Department of Environment ministers are keen to restructure the system so that voters see a more direct link between the amount they pay and the services they get. They hope reform will make town and county halls more directly accountable, so that pressure to control local government spending comes from the voters, not from Whitehall.

The Treasury, however, sees no need for controversial upheaval, and argues that rates, though imperfect, are the least risky option.

The Prime Minister's determination, nonetheless, remain. She is supporting proposals to replace rates with a tax, to be named the "community charge".

That would mean freezing domestic rate bills from 1990, and levying a blanket local tax on everyone of voting age. As the community charge increases towards the end of the century, rates would reduce until they withered away around the year 2000.

The slow process could avoid sharp shifts in individual tax burdens, which could be further eased with discounts and surcharges. Political risks would thereby by cut to a minimum.

Business rates are a likely candidate for more rapid reform. There is little Cabinet controversy over the proposal that they should be set centrally, collected nationally, and redistributed from a pool to local councils.

● Surrey County Council is to meet Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, early next month in an attempt to ease cuts in government grant which will force a double figure rate rise in the minister's constituency.

Survey's grant, as announced by Mr Baker last week, is being cut by at least 45 per cent to about £20 million.

Mr Douglas Robertson, the county's policy chairman, said the Conservative-controlled council wanted to move gradually to a position where it no longer receives any government grant.

He argued that once the council stopped being dependent on central government for money, councillors and officials could plan future spending without having their expectations thrown awry by changes in the system.

Over the past four years, Surrey's share of the national grant has fallen from 0.81 per cent to 0.25 per cent. Mr Robertson has written to Mr Baker, whose constituency is Mole Valley, asking him "to impress on the Chancellor of the Exchequer that rate increases should not be used to cut taxes".

Surrey has a reputation for low spending and small rate rises, and had planned for a single figure rate rise next April.

Like many other Conservative-controlled counties, however, it has suffered under new calculations of need which have shifted more grant into the inner cities, away from the better-off shires.

Mr Robertson said that the council may be able to hold next year's rate rise down to 13 per cent, but added: "We are fighting a statistical monster."

His letter is the first firm indication of a protest from the shire counties which is ecpected to grow after the new year holiday. Treasures all over the South-east, and in other districts, are beginning to calculate the cost of next year's rate support grant settlement, and the rumblings are certain to grow.



A fire officer checking an overhead ventilator after 40 fireman fought to control a blaze on an escalator at Holborn Underground station, central London, yesterday morning. More than 200 passengers were evacuated after the old wooden escalator caught fire.

A spokesman for London Regional Transport said that a police officer was taken to hospital after being overcome by smoke, but no one was injured.

Fire officers were investigating the blaze, which started in a machine room at the bottom of the escalator, but there were no suspicious circumstances, he said.

Photograph: Dod Miller

# Police hold 15 in raids over petrol racket

Detectives arrested at least 15 people yesterday in raids all over the country in connection with a multi-million pound petrol racket. The raids followed evidence given to police by a supergrass, Clifford Barnes, aged 37, now being held in solitary confinement in prison for his own safety.

He was jailed for five years last Friday at the Central Criminal Court for his part in the crime network and has spent the last 72 hours naming names. He is believed to have identified at least two Post Office workers alleged to have intercepted credit cards, which were then passed on to a gang who used them to buy goods, including massive amounts of petrol.

The network used a fleet of vehicles fitted with secret fuel tanks which were topped up at garages at night when the cards could not be checked.

Barnes told the court that the demand for cheap petrol was so great that the syndicate hijacked at gunpoint a fully-laden tanker on the M1 and siphoned off £50,000 worth of fuel.

He also disclosed how the syndicate was involved in other crimes of robbery and fraud and hired him for a gems raid.

Barnes, of Baltic Street, Islington, north London, was later captured by detectives at an hotel in Bayswater. He had a stolen credit card on him.

He agreed to be a prosecution witness at the trial and was told by the judge that he had escaped a jail sentence "in double figures" on robbery and conspiracy charges because of his decision to give evidence.

Commentary



## Geoffrey Smith

How does the Westland political scoreboard look as ministers leave their desks for Christmas? For the Government as a whole it must make depressing reading.

What is particularly damaging is the impression of two ministers who are so preoccupied by their struggle that not even the Prime Minister can pull them apart. Like an ineffectual referee in a wrestling match she occasionally gets mixed up in the brawl herself.

It was only the three of them who took part when the Cabinet discussed the issue for little more than five minutes last Thursday. "Almost like crossword time for the rest of us", one minister remarked to me over the weekend.

Mrs Thatcher herself emphasized several times that it should be for the company to extricate itself from its difficulties, and that ministers should refrain from campaigning publicly for either option. While this was accepted in principle, Mr Heseltine made the proviso that as Secretary of State for Defence he would have to give information on request, to which Mrs Thatcher responded that such information should not favour one side or the other.

It would be hard to maintain that either minister has abided absolutely by the letter of that requirement, but there does seem to have been a deliberate effort to conduct the controversy in more restrained terms over the weekend.

## Dispute touches deeper issues

This may well have come too late to prevent the general public believing that the dispute is above all a titanic personal struggle between two hard and ambitious ministers. Yet there is in fact much more than that at stake.

It is because it touches so many deeper issues – the relationship between Europe and the United States, between government and industry, and between ministers in a modern Cabinet – that the Westland episode will, I believe, be looked back upon for years as one of the most illuminating episodes of the decade.

To leave aside the elements of personal ambition and animosity between ministers would be naïve, but I do not see the conflict simply in those terms. The controversy be can explained equally on more substantive grounds.

One can well imagine Mr Brittan's irritation at finding the question suddenly being reopened at a late hour when he believed that a satisfactory solution for Westland's future had at last been secured. Any Secretary of State for Trade and Industry might have had some misgivings about the cartel that is the basis of the European option.

Mr. Heseltine has, to my mind, even more substantial reasons for concern: the fear of further American domination of the arms industry and the need for closer collaboration between the European members if they are ever to win a fair share of arms procurement throughout the Western Alliance.

# Bank deals sidestep spending controls

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Local councils have gained more than £100 million deals that have enabled them to sidestep government spending controls.

One of the projects made possible by such a deal, the enlarging of the Brixham fish quay in Devon, has attracted a government grant worth more than £1 million. Half the cost is being met by the Ministry of Agriculture, while much of the remainder will be raised in a deal that breaches capital spending controls imposed by the Department of the Environment.

The market leader in the buysiness of helping councils to circumvent government spending controls legally, has given a warning that the practice may be stopped. It came in a letter from Mr John Scott, a senior assistant director of Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bankers, to Mr Stephen Hassett, treasurer of the Conservative-dominated Torbay Borough Council

Mr Scott wrote: "There is always the danger that if too many councils resort to this tactic, then the door will be closed".

The Government's aim is to cut back the amount of spending power for capital projects that councils carry over from one year to the next.

If council money is held by the bank, instead of the council, at the end of the financial year, it escapes spending limits laid down for the next. Such money may be raised from selling council houses.

If the council holds on to the money, it will not be allowed to use all of it in the following year. If it hands it to the bank, the bank can use all of it on behalf of the council in the following year.

Morgan Grenfell has arranged deals worth £100 million this year for about 50 councils. The device covered by strict rules on council investment and borrowing.

Mr Hassett said that it was hard to see how a council the size of his could keep up its capital spending programme without resorting to the bank.

The Brixham fish quay is one of three Torbay projects being financed with the help of Morgan Grenfell. The others are a housing improvement programme and a £15 million conference centre.

# MPs' fury at 'black Christmas' attack

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's health and social security spokesman, was embroiled in a dispute with Conservative MPs last night after stating that the Prime Minister's Christmas message to the old and infirm was to "drop dead".

In what MPs were calling a tasteless attack, Mr Meacher said that twice as many pensioners would die of hypothermia this Christmas than when Mrs Thatcher came to power, and blamed the "slashing" of pensioners' living standards since 1979.

Mr Meacher, in a statement headed "Thatcher's black Christmas", said: "Mrs Thatcher's Christmas message to the old, the homeless, the unemployed and the underpaid is clear – 'drop dead'.

"And for thousands of the frail and elderly, quite literally, that's what she means.

"Twice as many pensioners will die of hypothermia this Christmas and new year than when she came to power. A total of 518 old people died in 1979 and yet a staggering 415 died in the first six months of 1985. Another 395 died with hypothermia as a contributory factor in the same six months."

Mr Marcus Fox, Conservative MP for Shipley, said: "there are obviously no depths to which Mr Meacher will not sink in terms of his personal attacks on the Prime Minister.

"One is astonished that at a season of goodwill he can make such a claim. Mr Meacher is the most miserable of MPs. He always looks on the black side and is a merchant of doom."

Mrs Edwina Currie, Conservative MP for South Derbyshire and a member of the all-party select committee on Social Services, said that Mr Meacher "should not make such unpleasant and quite disgraceful remarks. He should remember that his own plans for social welfare were thrown back at him by the Shadow Cabinet."

Mr Terry Dicks, MP for Hayes and Harlington, said: "I would wish Mr Meacher the most unhappy of Christmases if he is making statements like this about the Prime Minister, who is kind and warm-hearted and full of feeling."

Mr Meacher's attack came as Mrs Thatcher, in an interview to be broadcast at hospitals throughout Britain, spoke of what Christmas meant to her. It was a time of "just stopping life from its hurly-burly for a moment."

It meant a "whole kaleidoscope of memories, but above all an overwhelming impression of family, of warmth of happiness and the love of friends."

# Maxwell poised to shed 1,600 jobs

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Mirror Group Newspapers yesterday announced 1,600 redundancies rather than the 2,000 target it had set, and said that about 100 employees would be forced out.

Mr Robert Maxwell, MGN publisher, said that seven out of a total of 52 chapels (union office branches) had been unable to fulfil their quota of job losses with volunteers.

Those who have been kept on will cease to be employed by the present company which will be wound up at the end of the year. They will take jobs with three of his companies: with the newly-formed MGN '86 whose function will be to publish the *Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror* and *Sunday People*; the British Newspaper Printing Corporation, which will print them; and BNPC Services, which will provide back-up for the two companies.

Print union leaders said at the weekend that they were opposed to any "compulsory redundancies", but Mr Maxwell yesterday insisted such a phrase was wrong in the context, and that the 100 employees concerned were simply not being offered jobs by the new companies.

Speaking at MGN headquarters in London, Mr Maxwell said he had called in the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) to explain to those who had not been offered jobs precisely what their rights were.

Mr Maxwell announced that there would be 550 jobs available at the Thomson Withy Grove plant in Manchester which he recently purchased, rather than the 400 previously mentioned.

● The deadline for a union deal to produce News International's *The London Post*, to be printed at Wapping in March, expires today with no sign of last-minute talks.

The only union to express an interest in signing a legally binding no-strike deal – the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union – has been warned by the TUC not sign a unilateral agreement.

# Labour 'could control London boroughs'

Labour look likely to take control of a majority of the 32 borough councils in London, after the abolition of the Greater London Council on March 31, according to a survey yesterday.

All London borough seats are up for election in May, and the survey for Thames Television News, predicted that Labour could win control of Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Waltham Forest, and Wandsworth.

That would increase the number of Labour-controlled boroughs from 12 to 17. The predictions, based on by-election projections, suggest that the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance will gain control of Sutton and retain Richmond, while the Conservative control of boroughs would fall from 16 to 10 the rest being hung.

The political balance of the boroughs will be crucial because many of the "quangos" being set up to replace GLC functions comprise one nominee from each borough.

● The Greater London council's abolition is to be celebrated with an expensive bang by the ruling Labour group.

Councillors are drawing up plans for a week of shows and parties, ending with a County Hall fireworks display at midnight on March 31.

Opposition Conservatives suspect that the GLC's final fling will cost ratepayers about £1 million, but Mr Ken Livingstone's office said that "a few hundred" would be more likely.

# Girl's killer 'could be prisoner'

A prisoner with self-confessed "unusual sexual tendencies" could have been the killer of Leonie Darnley, aged seven, Mr Ivan Lawrence, QC, for the defence, said at the Central Criminal court yesterday.

Counsel told the jury that they should not convict Patrick Reilly, aged 24, a labourer, of the murder because of the "flimsiest of circumstantial evidence".

It was suggested that another man named as Richard Hammond, aged 23, at present serving a sentence for robbery, was the prime suspect.

Hammond was one of seven suspects who could have killed the girl, who was sexually assaulted and had her throat cut in a basement store-room beneath her home at Atkinson House on the Battersea Park estate on July 24 last year, Mr Lawrence said.

Reilly, of Anson Road, Holloway, denies murdering her. The jury were sent to an hotel last night having failed to reach a verdict and will return to court today.

Reilly did not give evidence. He is alleged by the prosecution to have been linked with the killing by four human hairs and three fibres from a jacket.

Mr Lawrence told the jury that "the most extraordinary coincidences linked Hammond with the crime and added: "It is not for me to prove that he is the murderer."

# Prince as patron of Brazil study

By John Young

The Prince of Wales has agreed to become patron of the Royal Geographical Society's next major scientific research expedition, to study threats to the Brazilian rainforests and the wildlife they support.

About 40 British and Brazilian scientists are to spend about a year on Maracá island, in the headwaters of the Amazon, examining forest regeneration, soil erosion and wildlife.

## Swiss commissions

Mr Graham Sloan, a former director of Howden's banking business, mentioned by Mr Brian Sedgemore MP in a Commons debate last Thursday, said last night that he had no knowledge of Mr Leslie Dew (*The Times* report Dec 20) having has a substantial banking business for Alexander Howden other than as a leading underwriter in the banking business field.

He added: "Furthermore, I have no knowledge whatsoever of any commissions being paid into Swiss or any other bank accounts.

"The Alexander Howden Group records would evidence the fact that on no single occasion did I, during my service, personally pay commission to any party, far let alone the Deputy Chairman of Lloyd's."

## Heseltine wins new reputation

The most pronounced change in the political scoreboard over the past week has been the improvement in his fortunes. For the first time since the public furore began he has more to gain from victory than he has to lose from defeat. Whatever the outcome, he has won a new reputation for his courage, determination and daring.

This rise in his stock, however, should not lead us to forget what the odds were when he began the battle, or to exaggerate his political prospects now.

Any minister who transforms a private disagreement over policy into a public Cabinet split, and who in the process resists the efforts of the Prime Minister to impose discipline upon her team, is taking an enormous personal risk.

That would be true in any administration, but it applies particularly in a Conservative Government which always attaches so much importance to loyalty, and especially with a Prime Minister who so asserts her authority.

The dangers of failure were, therefore, considerable at the beginning, and the rewards of success are still not so great as is sometimes suggested. To speak of Mr Heseltine having sewn up the succession to Mrs Thatcher seems to me absurd. That will probably not be decided for some years to come.

# Housing cuts threaten 2,000 jobs in Ulster

As many as 2,000 building jobs in Northern Ireland could disappear next year as a result of forthcoming cutbacks in the province's public housing programme, a building industry spokesman forecast yesterday.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive the sole public housing authority in the province yesterday imposed an immediate moratorium on all new repair and improvement grant applications yesterday, in the face of a 13 per cent reduction in real terms, some £44 million in its budget for 1986-87, about which members of the board saw a government minister yesterday.

The executive is to review over the next four weeks its planned new building programme to determine the extent by which it will now have to be cut back.

In cash terms the Government is shaving only £2 million off the allocation for this year and will provide £336 million next year.

The adjustments for inflation and loan charges and the predicted reduction in receipts from the sale of publicly owned houses to sitting tenants will account for the reduction in real terms of £44 million.

Mr Richard Needman the junior minister at the Northern Ireland Office responsible for housing, said that he took no pride in having to announce the cuts, which were made necessary by the competing demands from Ulster's two higher priorities, law and order and industrial support. Treasury appropriations under these two headings are to be increased by £30 million and £50 million repsectively next year.

● Mortar bombs and launcher tubes were being manufactured by terrorists on an industrial scale in the Irish Republic for use in the IRA's campaign against police stations in Ulster, the Official Unionist deputy leader Mr Harold McCusker, MP, alleged yesterday.

Army experts found and made safe four unexploded mortar bombs found lying around the IRA's latest target, a permanent police and army vehicle check point on the border between Strabane, co Tyrone and Lifford, co Donegal.

The small prefabricated military camp, known as the Camel's Hump, was bombarded on Sunday night, the IRA's second mortar attack of the weekend



After dancing with the Princess of Wales on Sunday night, Wayne Sleep was yesterday back with his pantomime princess Diane Simons, aged 20, in Stoke-on-Trent where they are appearing in *Dick Whittington*.

The Prince of Wales applauded from the royal box as the Princess and the ballet star performed a dance routine as a surprise item at a Friends of Covent Garden gala evening.

"She took to the stage as if she had been on it all her life", Mr Sleep said yesterday. "She wanted it as a nice surprise for her husband for Christmas."

# Foam death inquest adjourned

A coroner spoke yesterday of the dangers of youngsters spraying each other with shaving foam.

Mr Hamish Turner was opening the inquest in Torquay, Devon, on Samantha Hill, aged 15, who collapsed and died on Friday during a shaving foam fight at a discotheque in Torquay. The inquest adjourned pending the results of forensic tests.

At first it was thought that the girl had inhaled the foam and choked after it was sprayed in her face.

The coroner told the girl's parents that a post-mortem examination by Dr Albert Hunt, a Home Office pathologist, had shown that the girl, who was born with a heart defect, died of natural causes.

He added: "If you want your own private post-mortem done, we will make every facility available. I promise a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death".

After the inquest the girl's father, Mr Brian Hill, a bus driver, of Grenville Avenue, Torquay, said: "I do not accept that Samantha's death was by natural causes.

# Channel ferry operators disagree over fares and fixed link

By Michael Baily
Transport Editor

There is wide disagreement over the future of cross-Channel ferry services if the Government decides to authorize a fixed link in the new year.

Townsend Thoresen, the biggest car-ferry operators, say that ferries would continue to fight with cut prices made possible by new equipment. It would concentrate on the Channel because it is its most profitable route. More marginal services around the coast from Portsmouth to Felixstowe would close.

Mr Jim Sherwood, the American owner of Britain's Sealink fleet, does not agree. In his view, the fixed link will wipe out ferry services across the Channel, but regional routes away from direct competition from the link would continue and prosper. He is backing that view with investigation and investment in longer routes.

Probably the truth lies somewhere between. Some ferries may well survive on the Dover/Folkestone routes, because there will always be those who prefer a sea crossing.

Freight operators will also want to keep an alternative alive to prevent monopoly by a fixed link; and modern low-cost ships should be able to answer their need for many years.

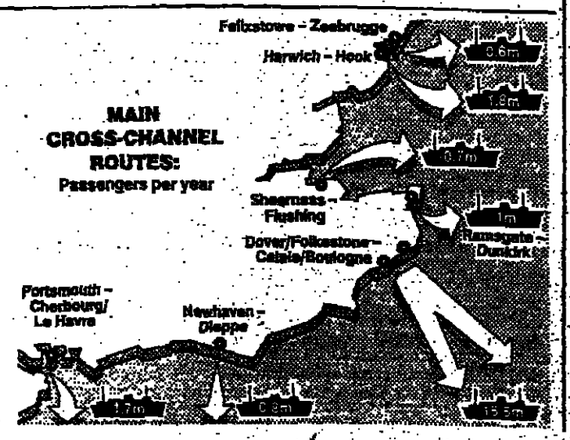
As distance grows from the link itself, so do hopes of survival. At Ramsgate, the Finnish-owned Sally Line is reflecting after nearly £20 million in new ships and harbour works in five years. It hopes that facing towards Belgium and Holland rather than France will help save it but it has abandoned plans for a massive new cruise-ferry.

Brittany Ferries, at Portsmouth and Plymouth, is celebrating with a substantial investment programme. About £10 million is going into a new ship for its new Portsmouth-Caen service next summer, and another £3.5 million into a "cheap and cheerful" new route from Poole to Cherbourg. "We don't think a fixed link will affect the western Channel much," it says.

Townsend Thoresen, though heavily exposed, has responded aggressively, with a £70 million order for two new jumbo ferries twice the size, and with 40 per cent lower operating costs, than existing craft. It has an option for a third 20,000-tonner and threatens to battle with a fixed link at rates that will heavily undercut those presently predicted by the tunnel operators. Less is said about rates between now and 1992.

Hoverspeed's fast hovercraft service from Dover is in doubt through lack of profitability and ageing craft. Its strength is that it offers faster crossing than a tunnel; but that may not be enough to save it.

Sealink, which under Sherwood has sharpened and sought to move up market, threatens to close its channel services if a fixed link goes ahead while activley expanding elsewhere.



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# Rise in burglaries sends insurance costs soaring in high-risk areas

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A plague of burglaries is making it increasingly difficult for the people most at risk to insure themselves, and many are unable to replace goods which have been stolen.

According to the Norwich Union, housing contents insurance costs four times as much in the highest risk areas and a spokesman for the Cornhill Insurance Company said: "I would imagine that the number of people we turn away in Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Glasgow and inner London is far greater than elsewhere." The company denied that it was refusing to take any new house contents business in the inner city of Manchester and Salford.

The insurance market generally is finding the incidence of claims higher in those places.

Mrs Lyn O'Mara, co-ordinator of the South West Liverpool Victims Support Scheme, said that insurance companies were making conditions or premiums in some areas too high for most people to afford.

Mrs Joanna Wood, Victims Support Scheme co-ordinator of Lambeth, south London, said that she was "very concerned". Even where cover is available it was simply too costly.

Miss Helen Reeves, director of the National Association of Victims Support Schemes, said: "A combination of poverty, high crime and expensive insurance hits hardest those people least able to bear it."

One woman known to the South West Liverpool scheme was insured for 20 years with the same company when she was burgled last year. To renew her insurance she was required to install heat-sensitive sensors, bars on her doors and rails on her windows.

That was done but the company turned her down, saying she would have to install a "panic button". She could not afford that, nor the premium.

The Prudential Assurance Company is just reaching the end of a year in which prices were raised after "a lot of heart searching".

The Prudential had an underwriting loss of £10 million in 1983 and £16 million in 1984 on domestic household insurance. Burglary was a big part of that. At the same time as premiums increased in some places, there was a reduction in others.

The Norwich Union said that over most of the United Kingdom the rate for contents insurance was £3.50 per £1,000. The portion of that which went to cover theft risk was £1.40. In the Manchester area, the rate was £10 per £1,000. Of that the cost of theft cover was £7.90. Theft cover cost 5.5 times more in Manchester than in most of the country.

"We now have a series of rates rising from £3 to £12 per £1,000 of contents insured. The most expensive places are parts of London and Liverpool. It costs four times as much in the highest risk areas".

Residents in neighbourhood watch schemes are being negotiated better rates by Brownhill Morris and West (Insurance Services) Ltd, of Sydenham, South London. A pilot scheme in April 1984 showed claim ratios to be encouraging.

Mr John Brownhill said: "We approached Lloyd's, who said 'yes'." Claims had dropped like a stone; hundreds of people had already joined; and pending results, he hoped to extend the scheme to all neighbourhood watch areas in London in the new year.



Mrs Cherry Groce arriving at her brother's Brixton home

# Shot woman joins family

**Mrs Cherry Groce, aged 38, the Brixton mother accidentally shot by police, was back with her family for Christmas yesterday.**

**Mrs Groce, who is paralysed from the waist down and has to use a wheelchair, said. "I don't feel any bitterness."**

**She was shot accidentally by Det Insp Douglas Lovelock when police called at her home in Normandy Road, Brixton, south London, on September 28, to question her son, Michael, about an armed robbery.**

**Since then she has been treated at St Thomas's Hospital and Stoke Mandeville Hospital, where she is to return in January for further physiotherapy.**

**An inquiry into the shooting which sparked riots in Brixton, was led by Mr John Domaille, assistant chief constable of Yorkshire. His report is with the Director of Public Prosecutions.**

# Victims of heart-attack on fitness training

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Victims of heart attacks are to take part in a fitness programme aimed at speeding their physical and psychological recovery.

Volunteers for a research project will exercise in a gymnasium within a few weeks of their heart attack while doctors study the effects.

The project may provide evidence that medically supervised fitness courses help reduce the risks of further attacks in men suffering from heart disease.

About 100 men will be involved in the two-year research programme at Stirling University, while 100 others, who have also had a heart attack, will be encouraged to take unsupervised exercise at home and given regular checks.

"We want to measure psychological effect on the men and their wives," Dr Richard Simpson, co-ordinator of the study, said yesterday. "Many men are afraid of strenous exercise after a heart attack and their wives may become overanxious on their behalf. Such couples' sex lives may suffer as a result," he said.

"Exercise does appear to improve a sense of well-being in heart-attack patients, giving them confidence to return to work, and to a normal life, sooner than they might have thought possible."

After being tested on a treadmill to measure their maximum safe heart rate, the men will join training courses lasting up to 10 weeks, beginning in March.

The research is being funded by the British Heart Foundation and the Forth Valley Health Board in Stirlingshire.

A similar rehabilitation programme for soldiers and other servicemen who have had heart attacks is in progress at the Queen Elizabeth military hospital in London. Only a few of those taking part have been medically discharged from the Army and most have achieved a medical grading which allows them to return to their units and be eligible for promotion.

"Perhaps the most striking feature is the improvement in morale. Without exception, patients agree they now live much happier and contented lives," Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Lych, head of the hospital's cardiac unit, said.

# Princess calls for more aid to combat famine

Princess Anne has appealed for more funds to avert renewed famine in drought-stricken areas of the Sudan.

The Princess said in an interview broadcast on BBC Radio 2 last night, that cash was required to buy emergency food and transport it to priority areas.

"The point at the moment is to have money to buy the grain surplus within the country and ship it to the areas where it is needed. After that they may require more grain," Princess Anne, who is president of the Save the Children Fund, said.

She said that she believed Africa's famine problems were soluble but it would require a much greater co-ordinated effort.

"The ability to overcome internal security problems that have exacerbated the problems in some of these areas is beyond the ken of certainly the voluntary agencies, and even government aid has its hands tied in the same respect.

"Aid is fine but it has to be understood from the country in which you're working, and that's got to come with time."

Princess Anne praised Band Aid and the fund-raising efforts of its creator, Bob Geldof, which she said had been "nothing but a good thing". There was a "real interest and desire" on the part of people to help.

During her recent visit to Africa she said that she ate whatever the field workers had available, including goat meat. "You can never be a connoisseur of goat meat, for various reasons, but I was impressed to get extremely good courgettes, for instance, locally grown in the depths of Sudan.

"They can grow very good vegetables . . . and people are getting much better variety in their diet because of that."

Asked if she found it difficult not to have compassion for individual cases, she said: "No. I don't think so in my case, because I'm seldom there for long enough.

"I meet a lot of people and I go around clinics and hospitals and I see a lot of children with individual problems at the time, but I don't get to know them as individuals like the projects workers do."

● An auction of architectural cartoons by Sotheby's yesterday raised more than £1,800 for Shelter, the housing charity (*Our Architecture Correspondent writes*).

The lots, featuring work by Fantoni, Trog, Hellman, Dickinson, Reading and seven architects, are on display at the Monstrous Carbuncles exhibition at the London Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1 until 1 pm today and from January 2 until January 11.

The title of the exhibition is taken from the remark made by the Prince of Wales last year about the proposed National Gallery extension at Trafalgar Square.

Among the top prices were *Inner City Aid*, by Trog, which fetched £126; *Ronan Point* by Dickinson, sold for £120; and Fantoni's *Palumbo Tower*, which originally appeared in *The Times*, sold for £105.

# Low response for family 'phone-in'

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Only a third of families expected to subscribe to British Telecom's new five-way family "phone-in" will use the service this Christmas.

About 400 families in the United Kingdom have applied to use the service through Telecom's Confertel Bureau, which can handle up to 1,200 telephone conferences involving more than 6,000 callers.

Most of the links booked for Christmas Day will bring together families in the UK, while Christmas Eve and Boxing Day appear to be the most popular for overseas telephone reunions.

The service, launced by British Telecom for the first time this year, has attracted many families with relatives in Commonwealth countries with Canada, New Zealand and Australia the most popular overseas destinations.

Participants telephone a specific number at a pre-arranged time and are connected through the conference operator to a switchboard system which allows them to speak to each other.

The family service is intended to encourage telephone use in the cheap rate periods. These start at 6pm today until 8am on December 30, and from 6pm on December 31 to 8am on January 2.

The family phone-in service costs £25 per half hour, regardless of how many homes are connected. Payment, by credit card or cheque must be made at the time of booking. The telephone carges are additional and appear on the quarterly bill in the normal way.

# Woman on board of Tesco

By Robin Young

Miss Detta O'Cathain, who has been appointed a non-executive director of Tesco, must come as an answer to Mr Ian MacLaurin's prayers. At every annual meeting since Mrs Daisy Hyams retired in 1982 it has been suggested that Tesco should have at least one woman on the board.

Last July, shareholders' demands to this effect were interpreted as a call that he should draft Lady Porter, the leader of Westminster City Council and wife of his predecessor.

Now, Mr MacLaurin has been able to recruit an economist, marketing and planning adviser who is not only a woman, but is also a regular Tesco shopper. "I do all my big shopping at the weekend in Sussex at the Tesco superstore in West Durrington," Miss O'Cathain, who is managing director of the Milk Marketing Board, said.

Miss O'Cathain thinks shareholders were right to insist on having a woman on the board. "Most supermarket shopping is done by women. I think women do have a more systematic way of shopping than men, and I do not think that anyone would deny that their logical thought processes are quite different. It makes sense to have someone on the board who can explain how women shoppers see things".

She brings to the job experience in planning, food marketing, promoting corporate identity, personael management, and a commitment to equal opportunities.

As a busy, working woman she feels strongly that "shop hours in this country are completely archaic".



Miss Detta O'Cathain, a weekend shopper

# Barbie doll beats home computer

**Traditional Christmas gifts such as toys and games have replaced the home computer in popularity this year for boys and girls aged between eight and 14, according to an independent market survey released yesterday.**

**Last year, many parents economized on their own presents to save between £100 and £300 to buy a home computer for their budding electronic whiz-kids, the survey, Christmas Purchasing, found.**

**But this year the home computer has lost its appeal, making way for toys, particularly lorries and cars, games, electronic presents and clothes for children up to the age of 14, the author of the survey, Mr David Keig, said in London.**

**Most parents are spending an average of £14 less this year on their total Christmas present list (£265) compared to an average of £279 last year.**

**The survey interviewed 100 families from different backgrounds throughout Britain. It found more parents are buying clothes for their children, including teenage sons and daughters, and themselves, than last year.**

**If the home computer has declined in popularity, the Barbie doll certainly has not, remaining a firm favourite for girls aged under 10, Mr Keig, a market researcher, said. "Girls particularly like elaborate, beautiful dolls with all the trimmings".**

**The survey found this year's £265 family present list includes £45 on electrical goods, £60 on clothes and £42 on toys and games.**

**Parents spent £59 last year on electrical goods, at least £55 on clothes and £35 for toys and games. "The home computer dominated the list for both boys and girls as the single, most expensive present. This year more money will be spent on other presents," Mr Keig said.**

**Couples with grown-up children and childless couples spend more on presents for each other than parents with young children.**

**Childless couples spent an average of £137 last year on each other while parents with young children spent only £76 on their own presents. Older, retired couples spent up to £193 last year on presents for each other.**

*Christmas Purchasing. (Reflections Ltd, 18 Exeter Street, London WC2).*

# Drink-drive 'killing 100 a day'

Drivers who drink kill or maim 100 people a day on Britain's roads, a London magistrate said yesterday. He was dealing with a motorist who was twice over the limit but whose lawyer said was "courageous" to plead guilty so soon before Christmas.

But Mr James Jobling, the Horseferry Road magistrate, said: "I've just been working it out. Every day, there are 200 people killed or seriously injured on our roads. And half of them through people who have been drinking and driving."

He fined Timothy Taylor, aged 37, a sales director, of Fernshaw Road, West Brompton, London, £400 and banned him for 18 months.

● An unemployed driver described by the judge as a menace to the public was jailed yesterday for nearly three years by Northampton Crown Court.

The court was told that Christopher Mullan, aged 32, of Leicester Parade, Northampton, was found to be driving over the legal limit twice in two days. He admitted 18 charges, most of them motoring ones, and charges of theft and deception. He was given 12 months for the drink-drive offences and jailed for a total of 33 months.

● Errol Hill, aged 25, a plasterer, of Lewin Road, Streatham, south London, who was seen by police doing a sudden U-turn after veering into the offside lane, was jailed for 14 days and disqualified from driving for five years by Camberwell magistrates, south London, yesterday.

● Nottinghamshire police yesterday denied that they were carrying out a policy of random breath-testing after 49 motorists were shown to be positive out of 1,431 breathalyzed.

Superintendent Roger Storey, deputy head of the force's traffic division, said that only 52 of those breathalyzed had been stopped because officers suspected they had alcohol in their blood.

● In Wiltshire 48 drivers, one-in-four stopped and breathalyzed, were over the limit.

In Gloucester, 194 drivers were stopped and 58 gave positive tests. Fifteen refused to be tested and will be summonsed.

In Sussex so far this month, of 1,447 drivers asked to take breath tests, 263, 18 per cent, were arrested for a positive reading or for refusing to be tested.

# End-of-year post heads for 1,300m-item record

The Christmas mail has broken all records, the Post Office announced yesterday.

By last Friday, people had posted more letters and cards than during the whole of last Christmas.

Sir Ron Dearing, the Post Office chairman, said yesterday at Europe's largest letter and parcel sorting office in Birmingham: "This is by far our biggest Christmas – even bigger than last year's record 1,200 million items during the Christmas period.

"Clearly, the cut in the cost of postage is contributing to our success. It looks as though the total this year will be touching 1,300 million."

Latest available figures show that up to yesterday, 1,285 million items were posted. On Monday, December 16, the post was 112.7 million up on the peak day last year.

At the new reduced rate of 12p for second class cards and letters, the cost of sending greetings this year is lower than at Christmas 1982.

The Post Office has supplemented its regular 100,000 postmen with 32,000 casual staff for Christmas, and more than 4,000 extra vehicles support the fleet of 28,000 lorries, vans and motorcycles. Nearly all Britain's mail is sorted at up to 16,000 letters an hour.

# Yard studies video of molester

By a Staff Reporter

Scotland Yard detectives were yesterday studying a recording of last week's Thames Television programme *TV Eye* in which a man claimed to have molested some 2,000 children. Thames also disclosed yesterday that the man's identity was not known to the programme makers.

Scotland Yard said that a decision on what action could be taken would be referred to the police solicitors' branch. Detectives have not formally approached the company for assistance, it confirmed.

Thames said yesterday that the man, a teacher, youth leader and child counsellor in his early forties, contacted the programme makers anonymously after seeing a programme on child abuse.

He was interviewed with his back to the camera, his features concealed and his voice distorted, after he had been seen, at *TV Eye's* insistence, by a psychiatrist.

Thames declined to comment further. It is understood that the programme makers are concerned that the man may be deterred from taking the psychiatric treatment to which he agreed, by what they believe have been distorted and sensational reports in some newspapers.

# Heritage hidden in farmhouse

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

**A crumbling disused farmhouse changed hands yesterday in a rescue deal that will cost the taxpayer more than £300,000. But English Heritage, which bought it, admitted that the buildings historical importance was not recognized until recently.**

**Acton Court, near the village of Iron Acton, Avon, has many features that make it a Grade One historic building and contains "a substantial surviving decorative scheme that appears to be just about the earliest use of the classical style in a house in England," the organization said.**

**But English Heritage admitted that it did not appreciate the value of the house until the Bristol Visual and Environmental Buildings Trust asked for a grant towards restoration.**

**The building, a farmhouse for about 300 years until the last occupant died two years ago, began life as the mansion of a branch of the Poyntz family, some of whose members worked as diplomats for Henry VIII, and who kept it for more than 100 years. Original internal and external designs survive behind collapsing outbuildings and wall plaster.**

**The purchase price is believed to be well below £100,000.**

# Plan for private sewage works

The Anglian Water Authority has announced plans to develop what is said to be Britain's first privatized sewage works to serve Peterborough in Cambridgeshire, subject to approval by the Department of the Environment.

It will be built by Ames Crosta Babcock and the water authority expects to pay for sewage treated and monitor effluent.

# Crash jockey leaves hospital

Richard Linley, the jockey who was injured in a car crash which killed his wife three weeks ago, left Yeovil General Hospital in Somerset yesterday to spend Christmas with his family.

His wife Beverley, aged 28, had been driving when their car was in collision with a lorry after leaving Wincanton races.

# Mayor nominee stands down

A lesbian rights campaigner who was likely to become Manchester's next lord mayor, announced yesterday that she was standing down, after the recent death of her parents.

Miss Margaret Roff, aged 44, a sociology graduate and former chairman of the council's lesbians' subcommittee, was chosen recently as Labour candidate and would have taken over the job in May.

# Wife to fast until her Soviet husband gets visa

By Richard Dowden

An English woman married to a Russian who has been refused permission to leave the Soviet Union, said yesterday that she intended to starve herself until he is given an exit visa.

Mrs Jill Blonski, aged 33, who married in Moscow in 1982 and has a daughter aged three is on the sixth day of a hunger strike at her family home in Newquay.

Mrs Blonski, who has fasted previously for a few days at a time, met her husband during the 1980 Moscow Olympics. She left the Soviet Union at the end of last year.

Since then he has twice been refused permission to leave. On the last occasion he was told he could not leave until eight years after completion of his military service. That eight years elapsed in November, but he was then told he could not apply again until February.

# Christmas in jail for marquess on drugs charge

Lord Blandford, great nephew of Sir Winston Churchill and heir to the Blenheim Palace estate, is to spend Christmas in Wormwood Scrubs prison.

He was remanded in custody with two other men on a drugs conspiracy charge at Marylebone Court yesterday, after the magistrate rejected a bail application.

Lord Blandford, aged 30, an insurance broker, was charged in the name of Charles James Blandford and gave his address as Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxford. Lord Blandford is charged with the two co-defendents and others unknown, with conspiring to contravene the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971 on or before December 13. He will next appear in court on January 20.

The other two men remanded in custody were George Yiannakakis, aged 33, a company director, of Bristol House, Lower Sloane Street, Chelsea, South-west London, and Lawrence Zephyr, aged 53, a company director, of Ashmore Road, Maida Vale, London.

# Fat woman loses claim of sex discrimination

A policewomen who was told to lose weight and smarten herself up has lost a claim that she was the victim of sexual discrimination. She has also been ordered to pay some of her employers' legal costs.

Mrs Susan Macleod, aged 39, a Ministry of Defence police official, told an industrial tribunal in Plymouth last month that she was put on report after being accused by Chief Supt Bledwyn Griffiths, of being "grossly overweight". Mrs Macleod, who weighs 13st, said portly male colleagues were dealt with less severely and that amounted to sexual discrimination.

The tribunal was told that Mrs Macleod's rounded figure was spotted by Mr Ian McGregor, the assistant chief constable, when he visited Devonport dockyard where she worked. She was told she looked shabby and too fat.

In a reserved judgment yesterday, the tribunal said she was not discriminated against and that male colleagues in her circumstances would have been treated in the same way.

# Action soon on 'space-saver' tyres

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

**The legality of space-saver "skinny" tyres fitted to more than 100,000 cars on British roads may be resolved early in the new year after years of doubt.**

**The Department of Transport is in the final stages of preparing a consultative document for circulation to car and tyre manufacturers, motorists' organizations and the garage trade as a prelude to introducing new legislation.**

**But yesterday the Automobile Association, which has been campaigning vigorously against space-savers for a year, said: "The move the Minister of Transport is considering does not go far enough in its present form. We would like to see all Slim Jim tyres actively discouraged. If that is not possible we want to see much tougher tests conducted before they are pronounced acceptable."**

**Space-savers are used extensively on the Continent where their use is controlled by EEC Regulation 64. It sets minimum standards of performance for these "emergency only" tyres. Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Ministry of Transport, wants to incorporate regulation 64 in the British Construction and Use Regulations.**

**The AA says Regulation 64 is not enough because it concentrates on braking performance in a straight line and on a dry surface. It said: "We have conducted our own tests at the Motor Industry Research Association's track and they show a clear need to include tests for lane change manoeuvres and braking on various surfaces in varying weather conditions."**

**Space-savers are fitted almost exclusively by imported makes, including VW/Audi, Saab, Porsche, Ferrari, Maserati, Lamborghini and Honda. The big three in Britain, Ford, General Motors and Austin Rover, steer clear of them.**

**Austin Rover said yesterday: "These tyres are now coming into the country in large numbers and something needs to be done about it. Somebody has to get off the fence and say whether they are legal or not."**

**VW/Audi is the largest user of space-savers in Britain. More than 30,000 cars equipped with them were sold by them this year.**

**VW said: "We give clear warnings in the handbook, in the boot and on the tyre itself that it is for emergency use only and must not be driven at more than 50mph and for a limited distance."**

# Man appears on bomb charge

Armed police ringed Lambeth Magistrates' Court, south London, yesterday when a second man appeared in connection with the planting of a bomb outside Chelsea barracks last month.

Patrick Joseph McLaughlan, aged 26, unemployed, of Bracken Park, Gallagh, Londonderry, was remanded in custody until today, charged with conspiring with others to cause an explosion.

# Mansion gun deaths inquiry

Detectives were last night investigating the deaths of Mr Richard James Thomas, aged 58, and his sister, Helen, aged 52, whose bodies were found with gunshot wounds in the remains of their burnt-out farmhouse at Scoveston Park, near Milford Haven, Dyfed.

The police sealed off the house, set in 300 acres, as they searched for the weapon.

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# Pakistan kept on tenterhooks over ending of martial law

From Michael Hamlyn, Islamabad

There is a cruel rumour going around Islamabad which suggests that even President Zia Ul-Haq, the chief martial law administrator, does not know, has not yet decided, how much freedom is to be given to Pakistanis when martial law is finally lifted.

All that is known is that General Zia has said he intends to lift it. The Prime Minister, Mr Muhammad Khan Junejo, has said that it will be lifted by the end of the year.

According to a columnist, usually close to the regime, in an Urdu newspaper yesterday nothing will be announced until December 31, the last possible day. Leaving it after that would invite mass public disappointment and recalcitrant behaviour from members of the National Assembly who have so far done the general's bidding because of his promise that if they did not martial law would not be lifted.

This does not, of course, amount to a promise that it will, but the parliamentarians like to think that it does, even though a pledge of a firm date from the general, when they were about to pass an act of indemnity for him, turned out to be an "error in communications".

General Zia has had time to consult his junta colleagues and to reflect, but there are key decisions which have to be declared soon.

One is whether he will give up being Chief of Army Staff. A strictly civilian president, of course, should not try to organize the day-to-day running of the armed forces. On the other hand just because he relinquishes the post of chief martial law administrator does not mean he wants someone else to take it, and the Chief of Staff is the man on whom that responsibility devolves.

He could try picking someone he trusts, such as General K. M. Arif, who was his staff colonel when he became Major-General, and who is now Vice-Chief of Staff. But Zulfika Ali Bhutto, the Prime Minister whom General Zia deposed and who was hanged thought he had picked a chief of staff he could trust. General Zia.

Then General Zia has to decide how much more of the constitution he proposes to allow back into action. In March, under the Revival of the Constitution Order, some important sections were left out – especially those that related to certain fundamental rights, such as freedom of assembly and freedom of expression.

Some provisions not left out were amended by the National Assembly. Constitutional lawyers, such as Haji Muhammad Saifullah Khan, the leader of the independent group of members of the Assembly, believe that he will have no right to withhold further sections. Mr Saifullah asserts that martial law suspended the constitution and that the moment martial law is withdrawn the full constitution is restored.

The Law Minister, Mr Iqbal Ahmed Khan, however, told a recent meeting that the constitution would be restored only in stages.

But what about the built-in majority that supporters of the President seems to have in the Official Parliamentary Group? "Wait until after martial law is lifted and then see how many supporters the Government has, Mr Saifullah said.

Some observers feel that the parliament has a vested interest in supporting the Government since it will then be continued in power for another four full years.

Other members of the independents feel that members should call for mid-term elections so that the non-parliamentary opposition may be included in the democratic process.

The political parties belonging to the 11-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy are displaying great cynicism about the proposed lifting of martial law. The Secretary-General of the Pakistan People's Party, General Tikka Khan, declared: "It is only a change of garb. Otherwise the restrictions continue. The denial of human rights, of parties, the repressive legislation."



Mrs Corazon Aquino and her vice-presidential candidate, Mr Salvador Laurel, acknowledging the cheers of their supporters during a campaign in Negros island in the Southern Philippines.

# Insurgency becomes key issue in Philippines poll

From Our South-East Asia Correspondent, Singapore

The mounting communist insurgency in the Philippines and how to end it has emerged as the key issue in the forthcoming presidential election.

President Marcos, seeking re-election on February 7 and Mrs Corazon Aquino, leading opposition contender, each accused the other of furthering the aims of the rebel New People's Army in personally-hostile weekend speeches.

Campaigning in Masbate province in the central Philippines, Mrs Aquino, widow of the opposition leader Benigno Aquino assassinated in August 1983, accused the President of being "the biggest subversive."

"A Marcos in office is the best guarantee for the further escalation of insurgency," she argued. "He is now telling the people that the opposition will turn the country into another Nicaragua simply because we want to effect a United Philippines by February 8."

President Marcos had earlier denounced Mrs Aquino's declared intention to give an amnesty to leaders of the outlawed Communist Party (of which the NPA is military wing) as "a dangerously naive policy that could turn the Philippines into the South East Asian Nicaragua."

His Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile took up the same theme with a parallel closer to home that is becoming fashionable on the hustings.

He dismissed the opposition's amnesty proposal as "simplistic" and warned that if the communists were allowed to take over they would commit a bloodbath on the scale of events in Cambodia after the Khymer Rouge took over.

However, if the President's private pollsters are correct, there will be no such amnesty because he is "way ahead" in the contest with Mrs Aquino. He gave this news to a meeting of his ruling KBL (new society) party on Saturday.

It was evidently not believed by the opposition vice-presidential candidate, former Senator Salvador Laurel, who later predicted at a campaign rally in Bacolod City on Negros Island that he and Mrs Aquino should collect between 70 and 80 per cent of the votes cast.

# Albanian family's bid for asylum raises tensions

From John Earle, Rome

Delicate negotiations are under way between Italy and Albania over the fate of six middle-aged brothers and sisters who entered the Italian Embassy in Tirana on December 12 to claim political asylum.

The six, four men and two women aged between 44 and 60, eluded security guards and are reported to have told diplomats that they will commit suicide if handed back.

Their father, Moisi Popa, was a chemist in Durres (Durazzo). He is said by the Albanian authorities to have been a notorious wartime collaborator with the Fascists and Nazis. A seventh brother lives in Canada.

Tension has risen since the weekend, when the official Albanian news agency described the six as hooligans involved in anti-state activities. Any attempt to hold them, it said, was an illegal interference in Albania's internal affairs and a provocation against the Albanian people.

The Italian Government is embarrassed because relations had been improving and trade increasing after an exchange of visits by members of the two governments. The state corporation Eni hopes to secure licences to drill for oil and gas in Albania and off-shore.

# Media bias claimed in Gandhi trial

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

The defence in the Indira Gandhi assassination trial alleged yesterday that one of the three Sikhs accused, Satwant Singh, had already been tried and convicted by the media at the Government's instigation.

Mr Pran Nath Lekhi said that if the judge found the prosecution's evidence enough to secure a conviction "no neck is safe in India".

The trial, at which the prosecution put up 73 witnesses, has been held inside the high-security Tihar jail in Delhi before a special judge.

The prosecution say Mrs Gandhi was killed in revenge for the army attack on the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar in June 1984. The defence says she was a victim of a family conspiracy.

Besides Satwant Singh, the other Sikhs are on trial for the assassination in October 1984. They are Balbir Singh, a police inspector in the prime minister's residence, and Kehar Singh, a civil servant. Both are charged with criminal conspiracy. Beant Singh, the second alleged Sikh assassin, was killed on the scene by commandos.

Dismissing the prosecution's case as "fantasy and politically motivated, Mr Lekhi said: "All that needs to be done to hang any person in a political murder trial is a good scriptwriter, a set of forged documents and convenient scapegoats from among the vulnerable class of Indian citizens.

# China defends N-tests after student protest

Peking (Reuter) – China yesterday acknowledged that a group of students staged an unprecedented anti-nuclear protest in Peking. But it defended its test programme and said there were no health risks to the population.

A Foreign Ministry statement said the Tienanmen Square demonstration on Sunday involved about 200 students from Xinjiang, the remote north-western desert region where China's Lop Nor nuclear test facility is located.

The ministry spokesman said the students, "a minority of Uighur students from Xinjiang who study in Peking... put a few questions, chiefly because they did not know much about the situation".

He said the Government stood for the complete ban and total destruction of nuclear weapons but "in the present international situation, it is necessary to conduct a small number of nuclear tests to safeguard China's security".

But in conducting the Xinjiang tests, full attention had been paid to people's safety. "Repeated checks and surveys have found no harm done to the health of the inhabitants."

The promptness and frankness of the official reaction took diplomats by surprise.

Demonstrations in China against government policies are rare, and this is believed to be the first recorded public protest against the nuclear test programme.

One Western diplomat said it was intriguing that the Government should acknowledge the fears of the demonstrators, and also identify them as Uighurs.

"It is very interesting that they should feel the need to react to what was, after all, a small demonstration at a very discreet hour on a Sunday morning", he said.

One of the protesters, a girl student, said their two-hour demonstration near the seat of the Chinese Government was aimed not only at halting nuclear tests in Xinjiang but also at halting the transportation of convicts to the province and for a local say in running the regional government.

Another student said they handed in a petition

# Year-end deadlock on EEC Budget

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The EEC put up the shutters yesterday for the Christmas and New Year holiday with the final terms of Spanish and Portuguese accession agreed but with the crisis over the 1986 Budget still unresolved.

A Commission spokesman said the Budget passed by the European Parliament would be provisionally in force from January 1, even though it has been denounced as "illegal" by the Council of Ministers.

But the 10 EEC member governments – or 12 from January 1 – could refuse to pay the extra funds voted by the Parliament, thus creating stalemate between the Council, the Commission and the Parliament. "Hardly an auspicious beginning to the new Community of 12", as one EEC observer put it yesterday.

The Commission will reconvene on January 3, when M Jacques Delors, the Commission President, will announce a reshuffle of Commission portfolios to make way for three new Commissioners, two from Spain and one from Portugal.

The new Commissioners, who will bring the total number to 17, are expected to be given areas of responsibility which at present come under Mr Peter Sutherland, the Irish Commissioner for Competition, Social Policy, Technology and Education, and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis of Britain, whose portfolio includes subjects ranging from Transport to the Environment.

Both men were allotted an extensive list of responsibilities a year ago when the Delors commission was formed in the knowledge that enlargement would entail a fresh division of the top jobs.

At the weekend EEC fisheries ministries tied up the remaining loose ends of enlargement by agreeing on new fishing quotas after talks lasting more than three days. The new quotas take account of Spanish and Portuguese demands for access to EEC waters but place restrictions on the huge Spanish fishing fleet.

Failure to agree on a budget for the 12 remains an embarrassment. The versions signed into law last week by Pierre Pflimlin, the Parliament's President, is £358 million over the limits set by the Council of Ministers. Parliament says this extra funding is needed not only to meet the cost of Spanish and Portuguese membership but also to honour commitments to social and regional spending.

Last week the Council of Ministers voted by a qualified majority to take the Parliament to the European Court, normally a long-winded procedure. In past budget crises the EEC has resorted to a system of "twelfths" under which it spends one-twelfth of the previous year's budget a month. But Commission sources said this time the Parliament's budget of £20.31 billion would be operative until the European Court rules otherwise or unless EEC member states refused to pay the necessary funds into EEC coffers in early January.

EEC officials said they hoped a "political solution" could be found before either of these things happened.

Enlargement to a Community of 12 has caused bureaucratic complications, with extra demands on the EEC's translation services, and will put an extra strain on the Council of Ministers' decision-making procedures. But it is being welcomed by Commission officials as a sign that the EEC is moving into a new era of greater economic strength and greater political influence in the world.

# Women win fight to see children

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

Four French mothers who have fought to be allowed access to their children living with their Algerian fathers in Algeria received a surprise Christmas present when the French Minister for Social Affairs, Mme Georgina Dufoix, arrived in Paris with six of the children who have been granted permission to spend the Christmas holidays with their mothers.

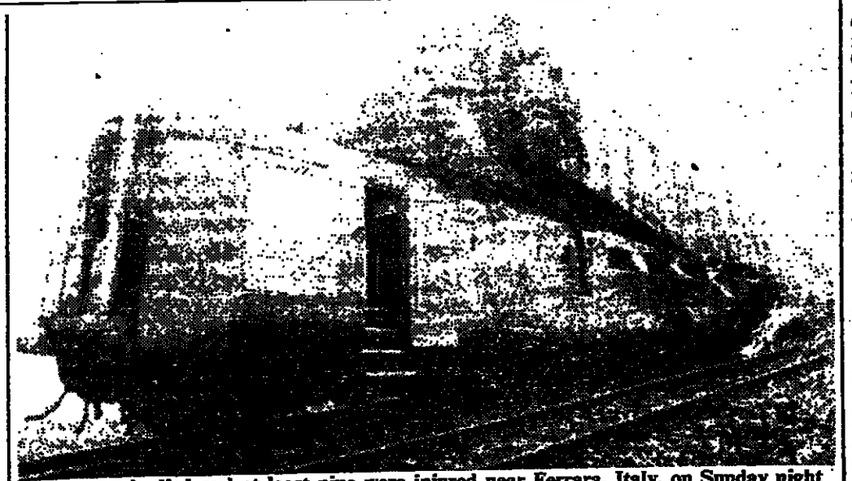
Five women barricaded themselves inside the French Embassy in Algiers last June in protest at the slow progress of negotiations to allow them access to their children, taken by their Algerian ex-husbands several years before and brought up in Algeria. One mother decided to end her protest in October but the other four only agreed to leave the embassy and return to France a month ago.

There were moving scenes at the airport as Mme Dufoix arrived at the weekend with the six children. Some of the mothers had been separated from their children for five years.

The agreement to let the children spend Christmas in France with their mothers was reached after the Foreign Minister, M Roland Dumas and Mme Dufoix gave a personal undertaking that the children would be returned to their fathers on January 2. Two more children who were due to arrive took fright at the idea of leaving their Algerian families and refused to board the plane with Mme Dufoix. One later arrived with her father.

This act of goodwill by the Algerian authorities is seen as a first step towards solving the problem of access to Franco-Algerian children by the French parent. There are 3,000 such cases.

Meanwhile, Mme Dufoix has just signed an agreement with her Algerian counterpart giving Algerians residing in France an automatically renewable 10-year residence permit with the right to practice the profession of their choice. It is thought that both the Algerians and the French Socialist Government were eager to conclude this agreement before the March general elections in France.



Seven people died and at least nine were injured near Ferrara, Italy, on Sunday night when a local passenger train ploughed into and under a stationary goods train.

# Soviet gesture towards Ten seen as symbolic

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

A visit to Moscow by the Socialist group of the European Parliament did not materially alter relations between Comecon and the Community, EEC officials said yesterday.

A Commission spokesman, commenting on a statement by Mrs Barbara Castle, the British Labour MEP, that the Soviet Union had "recognized the EEC as a political entity" by receiving the Strasbourg delegation, said the significance of the move was largely symbolic.

The trip marked the first time the Russians had received a delegation from the European Parliament. Members of the Socialist group had hoped that Mr Mikhail Gorbachov would accept an invitation to address the Strasbourg Assembly as President Reagan did earlier this year.

Mrs Castle said on Sunday that the visit, at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet, Russia's parliament, had clarified the situation following Mr Gorbachov's proposal last spring for formal links between Comecon and the EEC. Brussels has treated this idea with caution.

The EEC regards Comecon as different from the Community because it is dominated by Moscow.

# Top bureaucrats moved in Singapore shake-up

From Paul Routledge, Singapore

A top-level reshuffle in the Singapore civil service has fuelled speculation that the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, is about to revamp his year-old Cabinet.

Seven permanent secretaries in ministries as diverse as Defence, Finance, Environment, Trade and Industry and Home Affairs have moved to new jobs and the number of high-ranking "mandarins" in government has been reduced.

At the same time, the ruling People's Action Party also has taken action to diminish the purely party-political burden of work on Cabinet members, most of whom already hold more than one portfolio.

The ministers have given up their chairmanship of the party's district committees to concentrate more on their ministerial duties, according to *Petir*, the party paper.

These developments are seen as straws in the wind blowing towards a major reorganization of the Cabinet. After the unprecedented, three-day shutdown of the Singapore Stock Exchange earlier this month, speculation inevitably is centered on the finance minister, Dr Richard Hu.

According to the version most often heard in informed circles, his place may be taken by Dr Tony Tan, aged 45, a brilliant physicist who became Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Singapore and Education Minister. He is now Minister for Trade and Industry, and widely recognized as one of the most capable men in the Government.

His elevation could then free the portfolio for his junior minister, Brigadier-General Lee Hsieng Loong, son of the Prime Minister and very much a rising star in the Party.

Alternatively, General Lee could become Defence Minister if that portfolio is given up by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong, to allow him to concentrate on Singapore's ailing economy.

The role of Mr Goh, aged 44, is scarcly mentioned in the shifting political scenario. His position as heir-apparent to the Prime Minister is therefore considered safe.

Another job for which there is much jockeying is the Secretary-Generalship of the country's national trade union organization, which customarily carries with it a Cabinet function within the Prime Minister's office. The organization has a "symbiotic" relationship with the Government.

Mr Ng Pock Too, its present deputy leader, is recognized as front runner. The incumbent, Mr Ong Teng Cheong, aged 49, would remain in the Cabinet, possibly as Labour Minister.

# Tamil chief escapes bomb blast

Madras (AP) – A powerful timebomb exploded yesterday at the home of a Tamil militant leader who escaped unharmed and accused the Sri Lankan Government of trying to assassinate him and sow discord among rebel Tamil groups.

The bomb ripped through a bedroom wall and tore a hole in the ceiling of the seaside home of Mr A. S. Balasingham, a top rebel strategist, the police director-general in Tamil Nadu state, Mr K. Mohan Das, said.

Mr Balasingham, a Marxist theoretician and spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, escaped with his wife and nephew, who was sleeping in the bedroom when the bomb went off at 5am.

Police said the bomb was planted on a terrace above the first-floor bedroom which Mr Balasingham had occupied until recently. They said the blast was so powerful that it blew a 16in hole in the ceiling, shattered windows in the neighbourhood and was heard about two miles away.

"It was an assassination attempt against me by agents of the Sri Lankan Government now roaming the streets of Madras," Mr Balasingham, a British citizen, said.

There was no immediate comment from officials in Colombo.

● COLOMBO: Sri Lanka has rejected the proposal of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front for a merger of the Northern and Eastern provinces into a linguistic province (Vijitha Yapa writes).

# Afghan war arrives in Moscow's living rooms

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Readers of the Soviet daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star) were recently regaled with the heroic story of how Nikolai Kuznetsov, a young army lieutenant, killed himself and eight Afghan rebles when he pulled the pin from his last grenade after being cornered.

The incident occurred as the 23-year-old lieutenant was attempting to stop disruption of an irrigation project in the inhospitable Kunar Province. After telling his men to go on ahead, he lured the rebels towards him and then exploded the grenade.

It was one of the more poignant examples of the change in Soviet press coverage as the sixth year of the war drew to a close with no immediate end to the conflict in sight.

Although the 115,000 strong Soviet force is still described almost ritually as a "limited contingent" doing its "internationalist duty", the war is more and more producing stories of military derring-do and has now arrived in Moscow's living rooms in the form of combat footage on television.

The change has been interpreted by some diplomats as reflecting the possibility of more flexibility from the authorities. But a more realistic explanation is that after the loss of thousands of Soviet lives, the Kremlin can no longer expect the fighting to be completely ignored. Also, it is generally accepted that the Soviet units are now performing more effectively.

The new reality was driven home a few weeks ago at Moscow's Military Academy at a reunion of heroes of the Soviet Union. "But these heroes were not old men who fought in the Second World War, they were young men, some of them only 26 and 27 years old who fought in Afghanistan," *Pravda* reported.

The most noticeable change has been in television coverage. Apart from showing combat, the reports no longer always insist that Soviet soldiers are only in Afghanistan to assist "the Afghan revolution" and no longer pretend that they only come into contact with the guerrillas, the dushmans, in self defence.

Much of the change has been attributed by observers to the skill and courage of Mikhail Leshinsky, formerly the head of Soviet Television's propaganda desk and now chief of the television and radio desk in Kabul.

Although the style of reporting that he is undertaking would be regarded as tame to Western viewers used to nightly coverage of the violence in places like the Middle East and Ulster, in Moscow terms it represents a radical switch from the bowdlerized approach adopted – under Kremlin orders – in the first years of the war.

In recent weeks, Mr Leshinsky has been seen in his safari suit driving with Soviet troops through a barren Afghan plain and interviewing young soldiers in desert gear about the dangers of their assignment after film showing Soviet helicopters rocketing a village and then coming under fire.

As well as bringing the reality a little closer, the new type of official coverage has also begun to emphasize that service in Afghanistan (in a country where conscientious objection is illegal) is a patriotic duty to the motherland as well as "internationalist" assistance to the Government of Babrak Karmal.

This month, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the youth paper, carried an account of the fate of five friends from Vilnius who were all sent to Afghanistan on the same day when war broke out in December, 1979. One was killed in the first battle, and two more subsequently wounded.

One survivor, Yonas, a paratrooper, is quoted six years on in what is now becoming the officially-approved description of the perils of Afghan service. "You must go a long way to understand how dear your Motherland is to you", he said.

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# Mrs Mandela to defy banning order after being freed by court

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mrs Winnie Mandela, the wife of the jailed leader of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), Mr Nelson Mandela, was released without bail after a brief appearance in the Johannesburg magistrate's court yesterday and at once courted re-arrest by defying a Government order banning her from staying in her home in Soweto.

"As far as I'm concerned, it (the order) is a non-issue, a law that should not be obeyed by any honourable human being. I am going straight back there (to Soweto)" she declared as she left the court. Asked whether she feared arrest, she replied: "It makes no difference to me".

Mrs Mandela returned to her home for a few hours. Police surrounded the house and threatened to arrest her, but agreed not to do so after negotiations with her lawyers, who said she would soon leave for Cape Town to visit her husband in Pollsmoor prison over Christmas. She flew to Cape Town last night.

No conditions were attached to Mrs Mandela's release by the magistrate, other than a warning to appear in the regional magistrate's court in Krugersdrop, a town to the north-west of Johannesburg, on January 22 to face charges that are still being drawn up by the state prosecutor.

If she stays in her Soweto home, however, she will be in breach of a decree issued by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange, last Saturday, which bars her from the magisterial district of Johannesburg and Roodepoort, in which Soweto, Johannesburg's sprawling black satellite township, lies.

As she emerged from the court, Mrs Mandela, wearing a black and white headscarf and limping slighty, was engulfed by foreign journalists and television crews, and mobbed by relatives and well-wishers shouting "Viva, Viva". She then led a triumphal progress through the city's streets to her lawyer's offices, causing some disruption to the noon traffic.

Shortly afterwards her lawyer, Mr Akbar Ayob, announced that his client was very tired and needed medical treatment for high blood pressure and an injury to her ankle sustained when she was twice forcibly dragged from her Soweto home over the weekend by security policemen.

The first time, on Saturday, the police dumped Mrs Mandela, penniless and without luggage, at a hotel at Jan Smuts airport, Johannesburg where they had reserved a room for her. She refused to book in, and black staff at the hotel collected money for her train fare back to Soweto.

There she was met by her daughter and lawyer who took her to spend the night with friends in Laudium, an Indian township outside Pretoria. Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, she slipped back into Soweto and took up residence once again in the family home.

The police came for her again shortly after 11am on Sunday. Once agai Mrs Mandela, who is in her early fifties, put up a tremendous struggle and was dragged to a waiting police car, struggling and shouting. She was held overnight in a cell in the Krugersdorp police station.

Mr Le Grange's new restriction order on Mrs Mandela replaces her previous banishment, in force since 1977, to a priminive African "location" outside the remote *Dorp* (small rural town) of Brandfort in the Orange Free State.

She had in fact not been living there since last August when the house was badly damaged by unknown arsonists. Since early November, by which time it had been repaired, she had been defying a police order to return to Brandfort.

Under her new restrictions she remains a "banned" person and may not be quoted publicly in South Africa. She may attend social, but not political gatherings and a previous requirement to report regularly to a police station has been lifted.

English-language newspapers here have roundly condemned the Government's handling of Mrs Mandela, which *The Star* of Johannesburg described as "hamhanded beyond belief". It had, the paper said, guaranteed the worst possible international publicity.

● WASHINGTON: The US yesterday deplored the arrest of Mrs Mandela and said it had officially protested to the South African government (Mohsin Ali writes).

"We are concerned that the action can lead to further escalation of tensions in South Africa," the White House spokesman said. "We hope that the South African government will refrain fron such repressive measures and move towards discussions with leaders of the black community.



Mrs Mandela, accompanied by her daughter, Zinzi, gives a black power salute outside the court.

Arms row flares

# Reagan details more Soviet violations of weapons control

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan's new charges of Soviet cheating on arms control, published yesterday, mark a renewal of the bitter polemics between Washington and Moscow, suggesting that the warmer atmosphere since the Geneva summit last month has begun to dissipate.

The generally tough tone comes a week before the expiry of the unratified 1979 Salt 2 treaty. Mr Reagan has promised to continue to observe this as long as it is not undercut by Moscow.

The report he sent to Congress yesterday generally reaffirms the Administration's insistence before the summit that there was a pattern of Soviet non-compliance" with arms control treaties. It gives details of the unauthorized development of two new Soviet missiles, and modifies earlier Administration charges of Soviet violations on a range of issues.

The principal new alleged violation is the construction of silos at two missile test sites, suggesting that Moscow may be ready for flight testing of two large intercontinental ballistic missiles next year. The missiles, called SSX26 and SSX27 by the US, have already had their engines test-fired in the open air. One would replace the giant liquid-fuelled SS18. The other appears to be a smaller, solid-fuelled missile about the size of the MX missiles being built by the US.

The report also repeats charges that the Krasnoyarsk radar station in Siberia violates the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, insists that the new SS25 missile is a violation of the Salt 2 Treaty, and says the Russians have tried to hide the "association" of the SS25 and the SS24 with their launchers at the test site.

The third such yearly White House documentation of arms violations has been widely leaked here, and bears all the marks of continuing disagreement between the Pentagon and the State Department on how aggressively these violations should be publicized while the Geneva arms control talks are going on.

The report admitted that while the violations had allowed the Soviet Union to make possible military gains, some of the violations "are of little apparent military significance in their own right".

But it insisted that if the violations were not addressed, they could become precedents for future, more threatening violations. Mr Reagan said: "They darken the atmosphere in which current negotiations are being conducted in Geneva and elsewhere."

He added: "The Soviet Union has thus far not provided explanations sufficient to alleviate our concerns on these issues, nor taken actions to correct existing violations. Instead, they have continued to assert that they are in complete compliance with their arms control obligations."

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Secretary of Defence, who has tried to present the violations as part of an expanding Soviet pattern, argued in a message to the White House at the weekend that the US should step up its defence spending on certain systems as a "proportionate response".

Mr Reagan has also vigorously insisted that defence spending must continue to rise by 3 per cent in real terms next year, despite the budget constraints, to strengthen the US negotiating position and meet its commitments.

Other details in the report include the assertion that Moscow has probably deployed SS16 missiles at its Plesetsk test range, contrary to the Salt 2 provisions. It says also there is evidence that until 1984 the production of the Soviet backfire bomber was more than the 30 a year agreed in the treaty. But since then it has been slightly below 30 a year.



Eleoncio Mercedes: lost his title to Charlie Magri.

# Boxer shot dead trying to end brawl

Former world flyweight boxing champion Eleoncio Mercedes of the Dominican Republic was shot dead on Sunday night by a man who fired three bullets into him when he tried to intercede in a brawl in La Romana, 100 miles east of Santo Domingo (Reuter reports). Mercedes lost the flyweight crown to Charlie Magri of Britain.

## Blaze almost out

Naples (Reuter) – Firemen have virtually extinguished a blaze which raged through an Italian oil depot on the outskirts of Naples after an explosion killed four people and injured 170 on Saturday.

## Sex victim

Meilen, Switzerland (AP) – Arthur Bezzola, former president of the bankrupt Swiss hotel group Nova-Park, found dead at his villa last week, appears to have been strangled accidentally during a sex party, the prosecutor's office said here.

## Border dispute

Bamako (Reuter) – General Amadou Diarra, number two in the Mali Government, said troops from neighbouring Burkina Faso were still occupying four disputed border villages. This contradicted Sunday's remarks by a senior official that all the troops had left.

## Bulow move

Providence, Rhode Island (AFP) – Danish-born Claus von Bulow, aged 59, acquitted in June of attemping to murder his multimillionaire American wife, has announced that he plans to leave the United States next year and settle in Europe.

## Mass graves

Bogota (Reuter) – A total of 111 bodies of alleged guerrillas have been found in common graves over the past two weeks in south-west Colombia, a provicial governor said. Most of them showed signs of torture.

## Mine disaster

Warsaw (Reuter) – A methane gas explosion killed 18 coal miners carrying out maintenance work at a pit in Walbrzych in south-west Poland, the PAP news agency reported. Eight miners were also injured in the blast.

## Crocodile death

Brisbane (AP) – A woman aged 48 vanished in a "swirl of water" when she waded into a crocodile-infested creek in Queensland, Australia, after a Christmas barbecue party, police said here. Bystanders said the reptile who seized her was at least 12ft.

## Gambling blues

Peking (AFP) – Twenty-one people have been sentenced to "re-education through labour" for gambling in Shanghai and 5,000 gamblers have been pardoned after surrendering to the police.

## Saudi flood toll

Bahrain (Reuter) – At least 32 people have died in the worst floods for 50 years after a five-day downpour in the north-west corner of Saudi Arabia, a Civil Defence official said in Riyadh.

## Free at last

Nicosia (Reuter) – Costas Pittas, known as the "king" of Cyprus prisons, died aged 85 in an old people's home after spending 50 years of his life in jail. He was given the first of a string of sentences when he was 13. Nicosia prison guards sent a wreath to his funeral.

# Britons past halfway in walk to South Pole

By Gregory Neale

Three Britons who are attempting to walk to the South Pole have been sighted and now are more than halfway to their goal, it was learned yesterday.

But they will have a limited celebration on Christmas day. The need to conserve supplies almost certainly has excluded festive fare, save for a possible small cigar.

About 11 days ago an American pilot on a scientific research trip spotted the Britons, who are retracing the route taken by Captain Scott in his ill-fated expedition of 1911-1912. The news was relayed back to London via South America.

Barring mishaps, the Britons are likely to reach the South Pole between January 17 and 22, the expedition's co-ordinator, Mr Richard Down said in London yesterday.

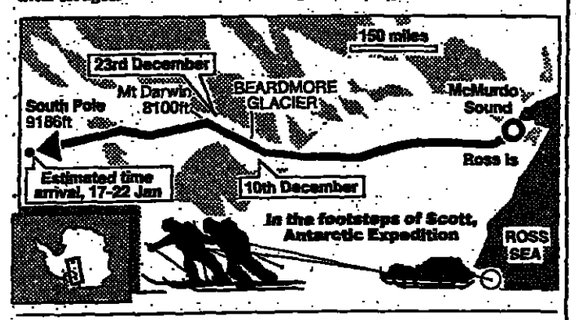
The three men, Mr Robert Swan, aged 28, from Durham, Mr Roger Mear, aged 35, from Birmingham, and Mr Gareth Wood, aged 33, who was born in Edinburgh but now lives in Canada, are each hauling 300lb of equipment and supplies on their sledges.

When sighted, they were at the foot of the giant Beardmore Glacier, which runs about 90 miles to the polar plateau, about 8,000-9,000ft above sea level. The glacier is pitted with crevasses, many spanned by dangerous snow bridges. "It can be a bit tricky", Mr Down said yesterday.

Beyond Beardmore, the route to the pole presents less hazardous terrain, if the weather holds good. The three Britons now are in temperatures of about -15 to -20° C, but the forecast is good.

Mr Down confirmed yesterday that the expedition had not been able to pack any Christmas fare. "Every pound of weight carried is essential", he said. "I'm afraid that for Christmas they will be having exactly the same rations as for every other day of the journey. But it wouldn't surprise me if Bob Swan had slipped a small cigar into one of his pockets."

Fuller celebration will have to wait until the men arrive at the pole, where there is a small permanently manned base.




# Champion backs change in world chess body

Amsterdam (Reuter) – Gary Kasparov of the Soviet Union, the World Chess champion, gave his support yesterday to a slate of candidates challenging the present leadership of the World Chess Federation (FIDE).

Kasparov, speaking at a news conference at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport at the end of a six-game exhibition match with the Dutch grandmaster, Jan Timman, said he was backing Senhor Lincoln Lucena of Brazil, who is challenging the controversial FIDE President, Mr Florencio Campomanes, of the Philippines.

Senhor Lucena said at the news conference he would stand for election as president at the next FIDE congress in November 1986 in Dubai. He named British grandmaster Raymond Keene as his running mate for the position of secretary general.

The two candidates said they advocated a programme of open government.

Kasparov had bitterly contested a decision by Mr Campomanes to annul the world chess championship match with the Soviet grandmaster, Anatoly Karpov, in February this year after 48 gruelling games in five months of play. Kasparov maintained the match was cancelled when he felt he had a chance of winning.

Kasparov, at 22 the youngest world chess champion, took the title from Karpov on November 9, after a dramatic 24-game rematch.

He had been in dispute with Mr Campomanes over a new FIDE regulation forcing a rematch with Karpov as early as February. Keene said he expected the Soviet federation, as well as other European and Latin American bodies, to give him and Senhor Lucena the support they needed.

# Kasparov in dazzling win

In a sparkling cascade of sacrifices, the world chess champion, Gary Kasparov, demolished the West's top grandmaster, Jan Timman, in the final game of their six-round match in Ilversum, Holland (Raymond Keene writes).

With an awesome display of tactics, he faced black's king with unstoppable thrusts of checkmate. Kasparov thus confirmed his recently won status as the world's most dynamic player. He defeated Timman by 4 points to 2 in the series.

Game 6

White Kasparov, Black Timman

Queen's Indian Defence

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | P-Q4 | N-KB3 | 2 | P-QB4 | P-K3 |
| 3 | N-KB3 | P-QN3 | 4 | N-B3 | B-N5 |
| 5 | B-N5 | B-N2 | 6 | P-K3 | P-KR3 |
| 7 | B-R4 | P-KN4 | 8 | P-N3 | N-K5 |
| 9 | Q-B2 | BxNch | 10 | PxB | P-Q3 |
| 11 | N-Q2 | P-KN4 | 12 | P-Q5 | N-B4 |
| 13 | P-KR4 | P-N5 | 14 | N-Q4 | Q-B2 |
| 15 | 0-0 | NxB | 16 | QxN | P-K4 |
| 17 | NxP | B-B1 | 18 | N-Q4 | PxN |
| 19 | RPxP | Q-B4 | 20 | P-K4 | Q-N3 |
| 21 | Q-B3 | 0-0 | 22 | KR-K1 | N-Q2 |
| 23 | P-N5 | B-N2 | 24 | R-R3 | P-N4 |
| 25 | Q-R5 | N-N3 | 26 | QxBP | Q-B7 |
| 27 | PxP | PxP | 28 | R-KB1 | R-R2 |
| 29 | RxR | QxQ(44) | 30 | P-N6 | Q-B5 |
| 31 | Q-N1 | Q-Q8ch | 32 | Q-N7ch | K-B3 |
| 33 | Q-Rch | K-B2 | 34 | Q-B4ch | K-N3 |
| 35 | Q-Rch | K-R2 | 36 | B-B4 | R-B1 |
| 37 | Q-N5 | P-K5 | 38 | R-K1 | Q-B2 |
| 39 | Q-N5 | N-Q4 | 40 | Q-B8ch | K-N4 |
| 41 | R-K8 | | | Black resigns. | |

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

# Pakistan: Chowdhery Ghulam Qadir

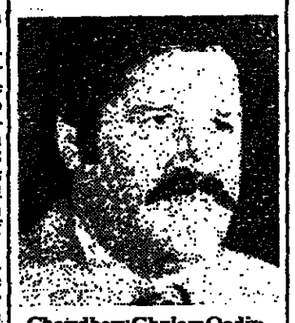
**A businessman and former opposition politician, Chowdhery Ghulam Qadir, repeatedly arrested and repeatedly tortured since the late 1970s, is being held in Sahiwal jail in the C class category – sleeping on the floor, minimum diet and hard labour. His business has been blacklisted and closed by the martial law Government.**

**Chowdhery Ghulam Qadir was president of the Pakistan People's Party in Lahore and had been awarded an assembly ticket for the elections scheduled for November 1979, but subsequently cancelled by General Zia. His first arrest came in February 1978 when he was held for six months but never charged.**

**After a second arrest, for distributing pamphlets protesting against Bhutto's death sentence he was again freed, then again arrested during a period of demonstrations by the opposition alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy.**

**This time, he was interrogated and tortured in Lahore Fort, before being transferred to the special security ward of Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore, where he was held in fetters and shackles in the death cells. Both these jails have held substantial numbers of political prisoners.**

**At the end of 1984 Chowdhery Ghulam Qadir was tried by Martial Law Court No 84 and sentenced to three years in jail for "association with Al Zulfikar", a violent opposition organization, with which he is not believed to have any ties whatsoever.**



Chowdhery Ghulam Qadir: repeatedly tortured.

# Christmas has confused message in Lebanon

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Every 10 minutes, one of east Beirut's Christian radio stations broadcasts its own unique rendering of *Gloria in excelsis Deo*. There is nothing wrong with the music but the opening words are unhappily rendered in Arabic as: "The snow falls like a poem from the skies". Like a lot else in Lebanon, the message is a little confused.

Take, for example, the Christmas decorations which were hoisted above Rue Sedani yesterday morning. Some purple bells and a blaze of flashing lights were strung up in the little suburb by the Syrian Social Nationalist Party which represents the partly Christian but pro-leftist militia in west Beirut.

The purpose, of course, is not to celebrate Christmas but to show the larger and much more powerful Muslim militias in that sector of the capital that they cannot have everything their own way.

In the Commodore hotel in west Beirut a tawdry Christmas tree flashes its coloured lights at the press corps that is spending an enforced holiday in Lebanon, waiting for Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, to secure the release of four American hostages and, just possibly, one British kidnap victim as well, held captive by two separate groups.

The faces of the prisoners are now familiar to the world through fuzzy Polaroid pictures and grainy video shots, of frightened faces, and long statements in Arabic from their captors condemning America as a centre of evil. If Mr Waite is successful, some more sensible messages might be transmitted this Christmas, and understood by those who hitherto have had difficulties in translation.

# Families hit as Israel's belt tightens

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Young families, the handicapped and pensioners are all hit by a series of measures agreed by the Israeli Cabinet to keep the country's austere economic programme on target.

The latest package is meant to save a total of $180 million (£124 million) but around half of this is to be raised through new taxes rather than by Government cuts. The squeeze will enevitably push up the cost of living at a time when a whole range of consumer subsidies are being cut.

The state education system suffers most from the new economies. Parents will be made to pay what is described as a one-time levy of $60 for the first and $120 if they have more than one child at school. Around 40 per cent of families will be exempted but the levy is meant to bring in around $24 million.

Teachers are also expected to make a substantial contribution. They will be asked to give up one free period each week for teaching, thus saving 60,000 hours.

The handicapped will face further restrictions in buying tax-free cars, maternity leave payments are taxed at source and pension ceilings are being lowered.

Contributions to health funds are to be increased by a total of $50 million while the Health Ministry is being required to find at least $4 million in savings.

# Likud ally quits over Mormons

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

**One of the ultra-orthodox parties in Israel's coalition Government yesterday tabled a motion of no confidence because nothing is being done quickly enough to stop the building of a Mormon centre on Mount Scopus – the university complex on one of the hills overlooking Jerusalem.**

**The party, Agudat Israel, put down the motion despite agreement by the Cabinet on Sunday to set up a ministerial committee to examine the question of building what is to be known as the Brigham Young University. Party leaders are dismayed that the inquiry will take months.**

**The party has only two Knesset members and cannot expect to win much support for its motion.**

**The controversy over the Mormon Centre has arisen because both Orthodox and non-religious groups are worried that the new complex will be used as a missionary centre to seek conversions among Jews.**

**In putting down the no-confidence motion, Agudat Israel has to leave the coalition. This will leave it free to attack the Government.**

**The two main parties can be expected to woo it as they seek to form the basis of a new narrow coalition which could take over if the difficult alliance between Likud and Labour fell apart.**

# Kremlin accuses US of first-strike plan

From A Correspondent, Moscow

The Kremlin's armed forces spokesman yesterday accused the United States of secretly developing a means of evading anti-ballistic shields and said it was part of a co-ordinated plan to give the Pentagon first-strike capability with impunity.

Colonel-General Nikolai Chervov said the plans were tied in with the Strategic Defence Initiative of President Reagan.

American Government assertions that SDI or Star Wars, was a defensive system which could render nuclear arms obsolete was part of a "misinformation" campaign, General Chervov added.

"The SDI's purpose is obvious: to knock out the USSR's nuclear potential as a factor of deterrence. With SDI realized, the US could deliver a nuclear strike at the Soviet Union at any moment without the fear of retaliation."

"If the SDI is implemented, then space weapons, like Damocles's sword, will be hanging above everybody's head and we will all be gazing into the skies filled with such weapons and guessing what will fall out of them," he said.

"The US would return to the situation when it was the only nuclear-weapon country."

Speaking to the Novosti press agency, General Chervov said the United States was planning a new range of fast-flying and land-hugging cruise missiles capable of evading the other side's beam weapons.

The Pentagon's new strike weapons under development incorporated the latest in high-technology – lasers, particle beams and kinetic energy – and they could knock out space, land or sea targets.

Proof of the United States' aggressive intentions lay in its continuing development of offensive strategic weapons such as MX missiles, Midgetman and Trident 2, he added.

General Chervov's remarks came after a denial late on Sunday by Tass of US reports that Moscow had violated arms control treaties by developing new SS25 and SS16 missiles.

Tass said the charges were a "fresh propaganda fraud" and contained nothing new.

"It sets forth hackneyed inventions unsubstantiated by any concrete facts and which were were already more than once exposed by the Soviet side," the agency added.

It said the report was leaked to divert attention from the fact that the United States had not joined Moscow's unilateral ban on nuclear testing, which was announced in July by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, and runs out on January 1.

# Mubarak plea to Arafat

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

President Mubarak of Egypt yesterday strongly urged Mr Yassir Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to recognize Israel, saying it would be a "big problem" for him if he did not.

In an interview on NBC television, the Egyptian leader was unusually outspoken in urging explicit acceptance by the PLO of United Nations resolutions 242 and 338. He said Mr Arafat should find a formula to recognize the resolutions because without this it would be difficult for King Husain of Jordan to go to an international conference based on the two resolutions.

"Time is running out," he said. "If Arafat did not recognize these two resolutions, he would be the big fat loser, frankly speaking.

# Pope plot trial falters for lack of proof

Rome (AP) – The prosecutor in the trial of three Bulgarians and three Turks alleged to have plotted to kill the Pope has been frustrated by a lack of corroborating evidence and the erratic behaviour of his chief witness. He probably will not seek guilty verdicts, a well-placed source said yesterday.

A Turkish terrorist, Mehmet Ali Agca, is serving a life sentence for shooting the Pope on May 13, 1981. He first said he acted alone but later turned state's evidence and said there was a Bulgarian-led conspiracy.

A separate investigation by Italian magistrates into allegations at he was coached by someone into inventing the so-called "Bulgarian connection" was dropped for lack of evidence.

# Bethlehem braces itself for season of ill-will

From Ian Murray, Bethlehem

Mr Daniel Rossing is growing nervous because the season of Christmas ill-will is at hand. It comes at the end of the year, just after our Western Christmas and just before the Christmases of the Greek Orthodox and Armenian Churches. It is the season of cleaning in the Church of the Holy Nativity.

Mr Rossings nervousness stems from his job as the civil servant at the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs who has to "referee" the cleaning by the rival churches. It is a job that requires a substantial amount of skill, knowledge and tact – to say nothing of a goodly force of police on hand in case things go wrong.

Over the last couple of years things have tended to go from bad to worse. Mr Rossing has spent much time over the past 12 months talking to leaders of the different communities, trying, as best a Jew can, to remind them of the meaning of Christmas and urging them to keep the peace this year. But he is far from hopeful. "Things have not gone well and I fear the worse," he said on a recent tour rond the church.

Last year the police had to pull the fighting priests, monks and friars apart. Several needed extensive medical treatment.

The quarrel is a physical manifestation of the spiritual divisions in the Christian Church, with the different confessions all claiming proprietorial rights over one of the holiest sites. The present status quo was confirmed by the Ottoman Empire in 1852 and the rule book was drawn up as a secret British Government paper in 1929 by the then district officer for Jerusalem, Mr L G A Cust.

A rare, well-thumbed copy of Mr Cust's grey paperback volume still serves as Mr Rossing's final arbiter in trying to sort out the quarrels both at the Church of the Holy Nativity and at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem where the problems are even more complex.

In Bethlehem, appropriately enough, things come to a head over Christmas. Mr Cust devoted 16 closely printed pages to describing in minute detail where every candle could be lit, every procession could process and where every wall could be cleaned. Whoever cleans a wall can claim to own it.

Most of the church is undisputed Greek Orthodox territory. The trouble area is the little northern apse, where the Armenian Church holds sway, where the Roman Catholic Church has the right to process at Christmas and where the Coptic and Syrian Churches can hold Christmas services. This is the area where the main set of steps lead down to the grotto – not a stable – where Jesus is believed to have been born.

The wall with the grotto entrance caused so much trouble that the Government used to clean it. But in 1974 a new amendment to Mr Cust allowed everyone to give it a wipe over – first the Catholics, then the Armenians and finally the Orthodox.

A major difficulty with other walls in the apse is that while the Armenians have established rights by and large to clean the bottom half. The Orthodox alone have the right to clean the top half but an Orthodox ladder is not allowed to lean against an Armenian wall, so the Orthodox cleaner has to balance on a very long ladder and take swipes at the wall with a very long broom.

Sometimes, as Mr Cust made clear, the ladder's position is crucial. "For the cleaning of the roof in the smaller Armenian chapel, the ladder of the Orthodox may only stand in one place, namely close by the pillar west of the northern face of the grotto, and leaning towards the south. It may not be moved to any other place."

The bad feeling in recent years has grown because the Orthodox tarred the outside of the roof and because the meticulous Mr Cust was not precise enough about the stretch of screening wall from the inside of the roof down to coping round the high Orthodox altar on the grotto entrance side of the Armenian chapel.

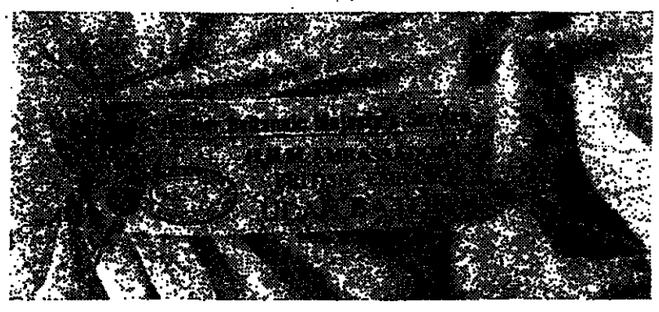
The Orthodox tarred the roof because it was leaking and because they had been unable to negotiate with the others who had the right to repair it. The tarring took place at dead of night, with equipment hoisted up to pour an ugly black substance all over the surface.

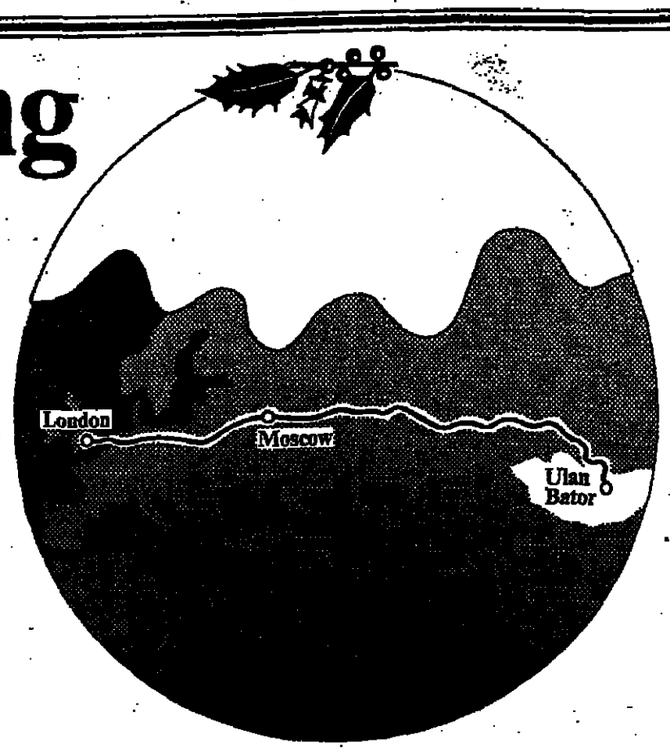
When the next cleaning day came round the Armenians moved in on the stretch of wall that Mr Cust had largely overlooked. Furious cleaners from other denominations fearing a takeover bid, shook the ladders. Priests fell and fought. Police intervened.

The one blessing is that most of the Christmases are on different days, but cleaning day is shared by all, with Mr Rossing in attendance and the public kept carefully out. "If cameras were allowed in they would fight even harder", he says.

# Have pudding will travel

*How Simon Winchester journeyed six thousand miles across Siberia with a Christmas present for Britain's ambassador in Mongolia*






**'Despite X-rays, sniffer dogs and KGB it arrived safely, if battered'**

Only one Christmas dinner will be served in Mongolia this year, at 6.30 for 7pm tomorrow. The address, should any weary traveller care to join, is 30 Peace Street, Ulan Bator.

It is an easy house to find: large and white, with a Union flag snapping crisply from a pole, a lighted Christmas tree on the scrubby lawn and (for a less fathomable reason) a colour photograph on a noticeboard outside showing the beast resulting from the conjugal union of a zebra and a donkey. The latter came courtesy of the Central Office of Information, apparently to dignify the approaches to the only Western diplomatic mission in Ulan Bator – Her Majesty's Embassy to Mongolia, the remotest Foreign Office post that Britain retains anywhere on earth.

*Ten people will be seated – nine of* them British, one of them French. The seven men will wear black tie if they can find the requisite kit, there being, sad to say, no Moss Bros in the town they call UB. The ladies are giving away no advance details of their plans. A pair of turkeys will be served, brought up some weeks before by the Queen's Messengers on their customary two-day train journey from Peking – what is known, because of the initials, as the "PUB crawl". There will be, also courtesy the QMs, a box of Fortnum's crackers, and the 10 will exchange presents.

A greetings telegram from the Foreign Secretary will be read out here as in all our embassies and consulates. "Lady Howe and I wish to applaud your efforts", it will mumble, "deep gratitude . . . sterling approach to duty under often arduous conditions . . . finest diplomatic service in the world . . . best wishes for happy New Year, cordially, Geoffrey."

The Queen's Speech, which happily for the party is broadcast from London just at the moment the dinner gong sounds in Ulan Bator, will crackle over the World Service, and everyone will listen – the Britons attentively, hanging on every word, the lone Frenchman (a guest, a teacher at Mongolia's only university) respectfully.

Then, as a record of the Nine Lessons and Carols is played – dust from the Gobi desert slightly spoiling the full glory of the King's College trebles – the Christmas pudding, complete with all due flourishes and flames of duty-free brandy, will be trooped in.

And it is at this point someone might well raise a small glass to this newspaper. For though naturally no *Times* man will be present at the dinner, the pudding came with our greetings. Your correspondent took it in its gleaming red box and its sturdy china basin, all the way to Mongolia by train – 6,000 miles across sea and steppe and Siberian mountain range. Despite the best efforts of legions of customs and excise men, the attentions of X-rays, sniffer dogs and microwave machines, and the combined suspicions of the KGB, it eventually arrived, unscarred and only slightly out of shape, to grace the ambassadorial table.




**The "suspicious" red parcel (top left) delivered via Moscow to our delighted ambassador, Mr Allan Butler**

The stories of the privations of Our Men in Mongolia have reached heroic proportions. Ulan Bator, distinguished by being consistently the world's coldest capital city, is a fearfully difficult place to reach. Planes, which in winter are unreliable and overcrowded, struggle in with disagreeable infrequency through icy gales via Moscow and central Siberia.

There is a train connection from Peking once each week, but "soft" class seats are hard to find, even for ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary, and hard class across the Gobi is hard class indeed. There is no road, and as Mongolia has no coastline, there can be no entry by ship. Basically the choice is camel, or train.

The Messengers, then, are seen as emissaries from paradise, deities who are miraculously armed with all the potions and magic needed to sustain the morale, the spirit, the indomitable Britishness of the group stranded in the cheerless waste. A pair of QMs had indeed arrived the day I took the pudding – and though much ambassadorial gratitude was briefly expended upon me, it was as nothing compared with that showered upon Colonel Michael Deans and Messenger Jim Hollis when they presented themselves in the embassy's portrait-filled hall some moments later.

It has always been supposed that the men chosen to undertake the PUB crawl – the longest and most arduous of the routes taken by QMs and one of the few that must be done in pairs in case of crisis – have little of diplomatic consequence to bring to Ulan Bator. It was always thought that their bags are filled with the ambassador's replacement golf clubs, his fresh Havanas and his jars of Oxford marmalade. But the Messengers, and Our Men in Mongolia, insist this is not true.

Why, they cried to me in the hall – look at these bags, 14 of them, and most filled with urgent and secret paperwork essential for the good conduct of relations between ourselves and the People's Republic. And so I looked at the bags, and found that one was full of boxes of Persil, another was loaded with cabbages, oranges and leeks, a third held two cases of Beaujolais, another a box of bacon – and indeed only three had paperwork inside. These were so secret I wasn't allowed to see them.

There is, I was assured, an explanation. Officially, the bags – those gravely guarded, treaty-protected, customs-exempt white canvas sacks lovingly fashioned by craftsmen at the Dartmoor and Parkhurst textile academies – do hold only the *dispatches of the Crown, and Her* Majesty's mail. The other bags, those with the cabbages and which are in truth much more eagerly awaited, are not, strictly speaking, diplomatic bags at all. Legally they are not protected by any treaty, nor exempt from any inspection nor free from confiscation. But, as a Messenger explained with a wink, so far as Mongolian customs are concerned all the bags look alike – so all of them, those with Dreft and those with dispatches alike, are waved across the frontiers as *les baggages diplomatiques.*

Not so my little Christmas pud. It had a tough time from the start. The Moscow train left Liverpool Street at 9.40am on Monday – too early for the *Fortnum's delivery men. The pudding* had to be Red Starred to me the Friday before, in Oxfordshire. There was some kind of strike, or a shift-change, or some equally mysterious reason for the pudding's initial disappearance, and the journey began with frantic searches for it – ultimately successful – in all points west of Slough.

Then there was the problem of getting it from the Great Eastern Hotel, along with all the other bags, on to the Liverpool Street station to which the hotel is nominally joined. It is no longer joined. No porters could help. Nor were there porters at Harwich, nor Hook of Holland. But the pudding made the Moscow train, was *duly inspected – perfunctorily –* as we went into East Germany, then out and into Berlin, then into East Germany once more and again out and into Poland, then out of Poland at which point the searches became deadly serious.

"What is in this red box?" barked the Russians, while they changed the train's bogies in Brest. "What is pudding? What is Christmas?" They threatened confiscation, but then found a woman with 20 Marks & Sparks' shirts for her husband in Omsk, and decided to confiscate those instead.

The pudding froze in the Moscow snow, and was steamed and superheated in the carriage of the Trans-Siberian express. It was so cold in Irkutsk that the china bowl rang like a bell, and the raisins were as hard as jezail bullets. By the time the Russians got to prod and poke it again in the border town of Naushki the train had heated it up into the nineties again, and brandy fumes gently wafted from its box.

The Mongolians who speak a language related only to Basque, Magyar and Finnish, and whose customs men understand no other, were utterly perplexed: as they tuck themselves full of fermented mares' milk and camel steaks, so delicate a sweetmeat as a Fortnum's plum pudding is somewhat tangential to their dietary spectrum. They played around with it, looked bemused and inscrutable by turn, then asked for a Beatles tape by way of a bribe, and passed it on.

Twelve hours later, and nine thousand seven hundred and odd railway kilometres from Piccadilly, I was marching past the zebra-cum-*donkey* and under the flag, and pressing the bell beside a sign which said, in Mongol; "The Big House of the Main Minister of the Big Nation of Britain" and lo! there was our Main Minister, Mr Allan Geoffrey Roy Butler, himself at the door.

"Awfully sorry about this – only embassy in the world without a security man", said Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador. "Have to answer the door m'self. What's that – a Fortnum's pudding? How frightfully decent.

"Darling", he called upstairs, "nice man here. Says he's from *The Times* and he's brought us a pudding. Bit bashed about, but it seems to be intact. How nice. Have you time to pop up for lunch? Don't see many friendly faces here."

So spare a thought, as dawn gilds Christmas morning's skies in England, for Allan and Pauline Butler, for Noel and Jean Jones, Peter and Pam Pickthorne and Alec and June Campbell, and for an English teacher named Martin Seviour and for the solitary Frenchman. They are, one can say with a fair degree of certainty, the only Westerners in Mongolia this holiday season, and by the time our first stockings are opened here, they'll have done theirs, and will be standing for the Loyal Toast – the staff of Our Man in Ulan Bator, about to tuck into the best-travelled pudding in town.

# Why should it come but once a year?

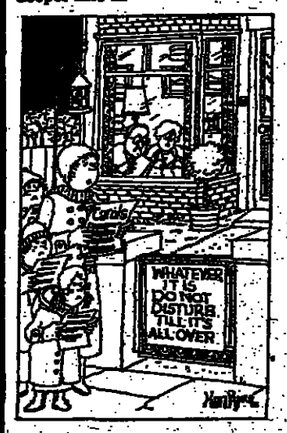
**COMMENT**

**William Greaves**

You can always tell when Christmas is looming because everybody you meet greets you with those traditional words of cheer and goodwill: "Don't know about you, old man, but I'll be glad when it's all over." Britain, faced with the awful prospect of having to enjoy itself – and, worse still, having to do so with the family – is back into its annual panic.

"I'm afraid it's quite true", says Dr Alan Maryon-Davis, chief medical officer of the Health Education Council. "From my own experience there is a sharp increase in family stress problems in the period approaching Christmas."

So what does the good doctor suggest we do about it? Cancel the whole dreadful ritual? Go to church, exchange a desolate mince pie and wait in sombre contemplation for New Year's Eve to put an end to our miseries? He does not. Dr Maryon-Davis is in the business of educating us out of depression, not plunging us deeper into it.




"The trouble is that being a rather dour Nordic race we don't have enough festivals", he says. "We would all be much healthier if we got together for a bit of a knees-up four or five times a year instead of getting worked up for one big occasion." If you can't stand it once, do it often. Positive thinking.

He is, of course, quite right. Just about every other country in the world, for instance, has at least one day in the year set aside for national rejoicing. The Americans have the Fourth of July. The French whoop it up on Bastille Day. Every "Third World" nation assembles to celebrate the day it became independent.

Then they have their Saint's Day. And when they don't have their own saint's day they have someone else's. The Italians go bananas on the Feast of the Assumption and every Maltese family congregates to toast St Paul. In England the national response to St George's Day is to ask when it is.

It never used to be like this. Remember Whitsuntide? That was when Cockney youths would ascend the hills en masse to turn their telescopes back on London, when village families throughout Britain would parade on the green to drink Whitsun-ale and when every Northern child would march in white, watched by adoring parents and grandparents, uncles and aunts. Just 50 years ago a daily newspaper reporter was sufficiently moved by the sight of 20,000 children in Albert Square, Manchester, to report "a pageant of faith and patriotism that subordinated the city business and traffic and made its dark buildings but a frame for a professional flood of gaiety and colour". What did we do about that? We abolished it (with no less prosaic a stroke than the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971) and replaced it with a meaningless Spring Bank Holiday.

Once there was a real Mothering Sunday, too, when girls in service were allowed to bake a simnel cake and take the day off to share it with their entire family at home. Now all that remains of that is a tawdry commercial hype, celebrated with enthusiasm only by florists and confectioners.

In most other countries we would not be still waiting for Christmas and preparing for the awesome arrival of grannie, but would have kicked the whole thing off in riotous style as long ago as December 6.

**'A sharp increase in family stress . . .'**

That is the day when children celebrate St Nicholas Day with a veritable orgy of hot chocolate, sweet pastries and letter-shaped biscuits while the adults get stuck into bishop's punch – spiced sherry or port with hot water, lemons and sugar – set the youngsters to compose verses and riddles about each other and threaten miscreants with the arrival of Black Peter. Why not? Because we are British, that's why. And anyway it would interrupt the ritualistic process of counting the days to Christmas and wondering when we will get time to do the shopping, whether grandpa will behave as awfully as last year, whether the turkey will fit in the oven and whether the dog will be sick – again.

And whatever became of such nostalgic celebrations as Lammas, Michaelmas and *Martinmas? When was Har*vest Festival last used as an excuse for family rejoicing? Even when we invent a day off, we make sure it falls on a Monday so we are back at work on Tuesday morning. Not so the rest of Europe. They down tools on whatever day their saint bestowed on them and then link it to the nearest weekend with that inspired invention, the "bridge" day.

What about victories, too? Not for us a Waterloo Day or even a Falklands Day. And while every other country celebrates the day on which its parliament was constituted, we choose to commemorate the time ours was almost blown up.

Perhaps we should institute a Dr Maryon-Davis Day. A bit of a mouthful – but at least it would honour the only man around who seems to have the right idea.


I CAN



Where there's a will, there's a way to give new hope at times of tragedy.

In the past year thousands of donations have helped Oxfam to provide victims of the African drought with food, medicine or shelter.

Sadly, this kind of emergency relief is often still necessary. But the fundamental need is for longer-term solutions. Mention Oxfam in your will and you'll be helping with vital development projects – like bringing clean, safe water to those who need it most.

For instance, in Ethiopia Oxfam is working with local people to protect springs that could otherwise be contaminated with human or animal waste. With funds for wells and pumps, tanks and pipes, we help supply water to prepare food, water to irrigate crops and precious drinking water.

Your legacy can help Oxfam to continue these projects and to start others where the need is greatest.

Your will can give Africa's children a future to build on.

I WILL

☐ I want my will to give hope to those who need it most. Please send me information on how my legacy would help Oxfam's work with some of the world's poorest people.

☐ Meanwhile I enclose £100☐ £50☐ £25☐ £_____

Name_____

Address_____

_____ Postcode_____

Send to: Frank Judd, Oxfam, Room TM68 , 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ. OXFAM

Oxfam works with poor people in their struggle against hunger, disease, exploitation and poverty in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East through relief, development, research and public education.


# These close encounters of the absurd kind

**The wise men of old scanned the sky for the Star of David: today's wise man should be more interested in Voyager 2 than in illusory UFOs says a critical Dr David Whitehouse**



**Blast-off: into the unknown**

We are due for a flap any time now. It will probably start in an isolated region such as a remote sheep-farm in Australia. Someone sees a strange light in the sky and will get no convincing *explanation of it from the local* observatory or university, but will find a local reporter with a sympathetic ear. It is featured on national TV and then the international news agencies get hold of it. It starts to snowball and another UFO flap is under way.

It becomes even more predictable. Astronomers and meteorologists offer conflict explanations of the sightings and a host of representatives of societies with strange names appear to proclaim that it's "just another landing" and that the governments of the world are concealing the truth about UFOs. Others will say it cannot be explained by conventional science and invoke time-warps or beings from another dimension. After a few days interest fades as the media move on to another story – but by this time it hardly seems to matter what the original sighting was. The public is left with the vague feeling that something alien *did* land and the full story didn't come out.

There have been many polls of what the public thinks about UFOs. They reveal that a surprising number believe UFOs are alien spacecraft, that our ancestors were visited by astronauts from another world or that there is something supernatural happening in the Bermuda Triangle.

*Why do large numbers of* people believe all this? The evidence for alien starships and ancient astronauts is very thin to say the least. Perhaps it is because they are attractive, almost romantic, ideas and if true would make our universe a more interesting place.

**'I'll believe in aliens when David Frost interviews one'**

A UFO is no proof for any hypothesis of alien visitation. UFOs are probably telling us that we don't fully understand the full variety of phenonema that can occur in our atmosphere. There is no hard evidence whatever which stands up to any degree of critical analysis that some UFOs can be indentified with starships.

Examine the collection of UFO photographs, they are dismal. There are also events called close encounters, where people claim to have confronted aliens or even to have been taken for a ride in their spaceships. Sounds fascinating; I wish it had happened to me. But in order to believe something so amazing we must have harder evidence than the mere words that exist at the moment.

There are people who deliberately deceive and those who are deceived. Psychologists know how easy it is to believe you have seen one thing and not another. I shall feel more confident that aliens have landed when I see David Frost interview one or see a spaceship parked on the lawn outside the White House As a subject for study UFOs are massively disappointing. But the myriads of cults and organizations that have grown up around UFOs and other areas of hazy science are interesting.

They usually work on the principle that if science hasn't yet found an explanation for *something it means that the* explanation is supernatural. For example, there is one group, with a large membership, that believes its founder is in contact with an intelligent entity on Venus.

Venus is a horrible place. In the 1950s, when communication was first claimed, we had no real idea of what it was like. We just knew that it was covered in a thick cloud layer. Today we know that its surface is hotter than the hottest household oven, and it has an atmospheric pressure equal to that more than half a mile beneath the surface of the seas. There are also violent volcanoes and massive lightning bolts. I wonder had this been known in the 1950s if a world other than Venus would not have seemed more desirable as a residence for an "intelligent entity".

At this moment a tiny man-made spacecraft called Voyager 2 is heading silently towards the mysterious planet Uranus. Uranus is a giant world of which we have had only distant, fuzzy glimpses. Next January Voyager will flash past, taking photographs of the planet and its retinue of tiny dark moons. It is sure to bring unexpected surprises.

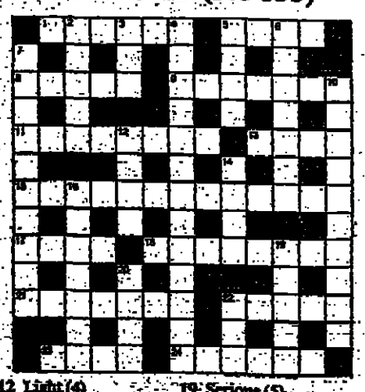
When Voyager passed Jupiter and Saturn it astounded us. Why didn't any of these cosmic megabrains give us the tip off? If they had said: "On Io you will find cold sulphur volcanoes," for example, those few words would have established their credibility. Their silence spoke volumes.

Part of the problem is that science generally gets a poor Press, and *accounts of alien* spaceships, ancient astronauts and suchlike are frequently the only examples of scientific popularization available. These philosophies trade on a vast untapped public interest in the deepest scientific questions but, instead of approaching this with an open mind, they peddle prejudice, sloppy scholarship and outrageous wishful thinking.

There is a distinction to be made between those who originate and promote such ideas and those who follow them. Those who follow are *often impressed by the grandeur* of such philosophies and the knowledge and insight they give. In fact, this is a remarkably scientific attitude, but distorted by the "anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about" school of thought.

It is time we started pouring *tough criticism on these shoddy* ill-thought out doctrines and let real science, infinitely more interesting, shine through. We are searching for life in space and could find it any time. But if we are alone, that is a truth worth knowing. At present there is no evidence that anyone has found any form of life in space unless someone can tell me unambiguously what Voyager 2 will find at Uranus in January.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 833)



ACROSS
1 Clergy (6)
5 Incidental benefit (4)
8 Sharp smelling (5)
9 Illusory hope (7)
11 Grumble (8)
13 As well (4)
15 Expel from church (13)
17 Vigorous style (4)
18 Potency (8)
21 Temporal (7)
22 Delicate (5)
23 Adhesive (4)
24 Food cupboard (6)

DOWN
2 Muslim's women (5)
3 Make free (3)
4 Of gardening (13)
5 Precise (4)
6 German measles (7)
7 Tactlessness (10)
10 Mendip caves (6,4)
12 Light (4)
14 Taunt (4)
16 Altar area (7)
19 Serious (5)
20 Intimation (4)
22 Animal hair (3)

SOLUTION TO No 832
ACROSS: 1 Vague 4 Journal 8 Less 9 Shopped 10 Monorail 11 Cite 13 Ferociously 17 Orbs 18 Mindfully 21 Termini 22 Unfit 23 Doormen 24 Ding-
DOWN: 1 Volume 2 Grain 3 Exterior 4 Justification 5 Upon 6 Nuptial 7 Lodger 12 Dumbfound 14 Embargo 15 Rotted 16 Myrtle 19 Lilo 20 Finn

هكذا من الأصل



## FASHION by Suzy Menkes

# Mistress of her own wardrobe









**Left:** Armani's metallic silk top shimmering with diamanté and pearl flowers, over black gaberdine ski pants both from Armani, 123 New Bond Street, W1

**Far left:** Donna Karan's soft cream cashmere and silk wrap-over jacket, also in black, from Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, W1. Seven-strand baroque pearl necklace by Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel

**Right:** Chanel's fondant pink silk strapless dress with black velvet bodice and three-quarter length silk jacket. Baroque pearl necklace and earrings with black lacquer choker. All from Chanel, 26 Old Bond Street, W1

**Below:** Rich black velvet tunic with gold lace, jet and diamanté embroidered cuffs. Shimmering gold crinoline skirt, both by Armani from 123 New Bond Street, W1. Gold pear-drop shaped earrings by Donna Karan at Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, W1

*Hair by* LEONARD
Make-up by CHARLIE DUFFY using Les Marines collection by Chanel

**After the dramatic shoot-out in *Dynasty*, Ali MacGraw casts off the lipgloss and lace of soap glamour for her own simple yet striking sense of style**

I met Ali MacGraw the day she died in *Dynasty* in a blood-bath and a green velvet suit. The suit was important to her, although the rest of the cast complained that it was too plain for a soap opera wedding in Moldavia. "But then I don't think that the kind of clothes that appear in *Dynasty* are 'glamour'. any more than I think that sexy dressing is all about ruffles and spandex", she says.

"The great unwashed masses confuse *Dynasty* dressing with style. It's really just great fun as a show – a spectacle of ravishing women."

Ali MacGraw at 47 is five years younger than soap opera's reigning queen Joan Collins. She is also the reverse of that "glamorous" image with her cropped hair and merry, expressive face. She arrived at the studio engulfed in the stove-pipe neck of a black cashmere tunic sweater by the American designer Zoran, with inky black trousers and boots. She acts out an instant *Love Story* with the photographer's fur rug of a dog, and spills on to the dressing-room table photographs of her own three dogs and 14-year-old son, Joshua, all back home in California.

"I live a very real life – and I want it that way", she says. "I've never been plagued by fan hysteria. I don't do a different number and wear different clothes when I know I am going to be seen. I don't feel that *Dynasty* was successful for me at all because I didn't want to be interchangeable with all those unbelieveably beautiful American soap stars. They've got a very successful formula, but even my hair didn't fit in."

Ali MacGraw is a veteran of two blockbuster films – *Goodbye Columbus* and *Love Story* – and of a much-publicized marriage to Steve McQueen. She remains untouched by Hollywood's lipgloss and glamour, but fascinated by fashion. She learnt it from the poinsettia-red lips of Diana Vreeland, *monstre sacré* of American style and Ali MacGraw's first boss when she worked for American *Vogue* in the early 1960s.

"She was tough to work for. I earned $50 a week for meeting her at 7.30 at her apartment every morning. But I learnt so much visually from her. Almost everybody at *Vogue* was utterly obsessed with clothes. Every day she wore the same black turtle-neck sweater and black skirt, with her red fingernails and hand-made shoes. She had real style and taste and was the most exciting editor in America. She taught me how to see."

Ali MacGraw's fashion education was completed in her next job – working as a stylist for American photographer Melvin Sokolsky. She ran a professional eye over the clothes I had brought to the studio, picking out Donna Karan's soft cashmere and silk sweater ("I'm crazy about her cashmere sarong wrap skirt") and Armani's exquisitely simple shimmering evening top.

"I'm wearing a lot of Donna Karan and Zoran at the moment because I find cashmere so soft and comfortable", she says. "I also like Issey Miyake and Yohji Yamamoto and I buy a lot of Armani jackets. But I buy what I like, and I don't like to look like page 72 of *Vogue*. This year the most money I've spent is at Chanel."

Round her neck – the most memorable image to appear in *Love Story* – go the bold Chanel pearls and chains. With her hair ruffled and casual or sleeked back in more sophisticated style, the fashion taste of Ali MacGraw emerges as that deceptively simple style that comes designer labelled and very expensive.

"I now wear very good stuff", she admits, "but then I keep it. My best evening gown is a Halston that is five or six years old. I never want to feel that an expensive dress is wearing me."

Ali MacGraw was in London to narrate "Peter and the Wolf" in concert with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall. It was the first-ever appearance live on stage for this star of screens great and small. She accepted because "I love Christmas-time and I love being in London".

At the height of her fame, Ali MacGraw abandoned her career to her second husband Steve McQueen and to look after Josh. She re-established her career as she turned 40 and, even though she does not cultivate a high fashion image off-screen, she takes a close interest in dressing for her film roles.

"Fashion is one thing and costume is another", she says. "That's why I specifically asked Calvin Klein to do clothes for me on screen. I've never been a slave to green ruffles because they were in, but I do ask whether an outfit is right for the character I am playing, and I have terrible trouble if I don't feel that I am dressed for the part."

Should Ali MacGraw have looked uncomfortable as Lady Ashley Mitchell in *Dynasty*, then she probably was.

"The more beads I put on the more ridiculous I look", she says. "The film experience I would be dressing in those old *Visconti* films. My dreams were never of being a Hollywood *movie star but of being in the* Russian ballet."

She does not dream now of becoming a director, but perhaps of art-directing a film instead of "wandering around wondering if the props are right". She complained that the set of *Dynasty* was always so perfect, with no thumb-print of human life. "A dressing table can tell me more about a person than anything else", she says.

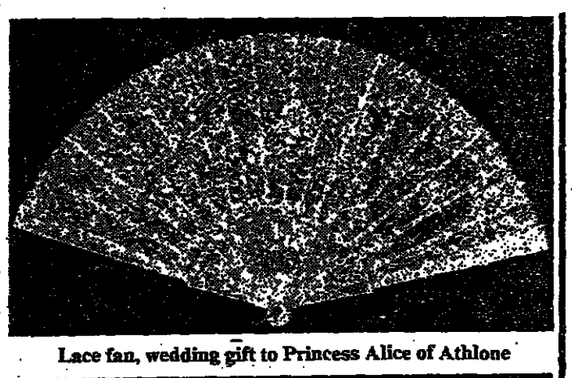
It told me a great deal about Ali MacGraw that she spent more time on the phone to her son and playing with the dog, than she did primping herself in the dressing-room mirror.



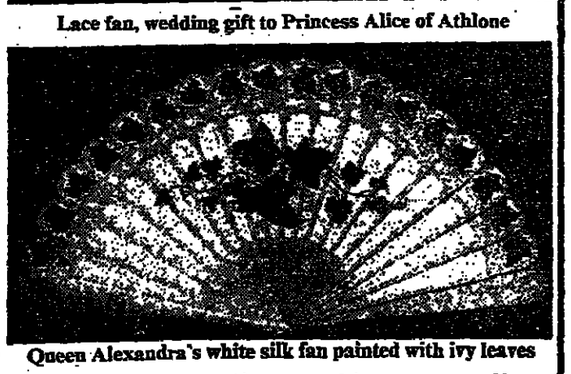
**Photographs by David Anthony**

# Così fan tutte!

**That decorative fashion accessory, the fan, is now on show in London**



**Lace fan, wedding gift to Princess Alice of Athlone**



**Queen Alexandra's white silk fan painted with ivy leaves**

**Fans are the flavour of the month for costume exhibitions. That most delicate and graceful of fashion accessories is on show at two London museums, and some of the arcs of lace, pleated pictures and quivering feathers will later take to the road as travelling exhibits.**

**The fan started its life as it has ended it in our own age – as an instrument used to cool us down in hot climes. In between it became the ultimate symbol of aristocratic frippery, until its role as a class symbol caused its downfall.**

**"Ivory, Feathers and Lace" is the evocative title of the Museum of London's show of fans from its own collection. An early 18th-century street scene at St Bartholomew's Fair is displayed as a fan design. Other London places and events are shown in a bustling picture on a printed paper fan commemorating the Great Exhibition of 1851, and a promotional fan produced by the Savoy Hotel at the turn of the century which depicts idealized diners among the potted palms.**

**Fans are also put in their place as a part of the clothing of their time in a central group of grand dresses, which include a Poiret gown from the 1920s made for court presentation.**

**Once the ostrich feather fan became part of court dressing, the fan became inextricably linked with court circles and with its fountainhead, the royal family. There is an archive photograph of Queen Alexandra, while she was Princess of Wales, dressed in a jewel-encrusted fancy dress costume as Mary Queen of Scots.**

**A delicate fan of fine beech sticks inlaid with white silk and painted with naturalistic ivy leaves is another example of the Princess's fashionable style. That is in marked contrast to her mother-in-law Queen Victoria's sentimental fan of dog and kennel inscribed with the words: "There's no place like home".**

**"Royal Fans" is specifically the subject of the exhibition organized by the Fan Circle International and currently on show in the Court Dress Collection at Kensington Palace. The Queen herself has lent one of the most historic yet intimate family pieces: two painted cherubs flanking Queen Victoria's new residence, Osborne House, while her entire family of nine children, and Prince Albert, peep out in coloured photographs from the guard sticks.**

**Other fans include a delicious rococo frolic of pastoral idyll swagged in bows from the collection of the Duchess of Gloucester. The ultimate royal souvenir is a fan of 15 sticks, each painted with miniatures of the costumes worn at a fancy dress ball given in 1842 by Queen Victoria in her dancing years.**

***Ivory, Feathers and Lace" at the Museum of London, London Wall, EC2, until April 27.***
***"Royal Fans at the Court Dress Collection", Kensington Palace, London W8, until January 7 and then at Harewood House, Yorkshire, from March 26.***

# Leaning tower of Christmas

MRS IONS' CHRISTMAS DIARY

I am not of the opinion that foil Christmas trees are flying in the face of Nature and a blot on Father Christmas. Every year I mean to buy one, complete with all those shimmering wands of shredded aluminium that fold away into a pencil case on Twelfth Night. But meaning to do it is not the same as actually doing it, so every year we visit the garden centre for an unrooted stalk of fir tree and hope it doesn't asphyxiate the Hoover before the new year.

This year, however, they only had the sort with roots on, and a tree with roots on is more of a responsibility than a stalk. You have to water it, nurture it, talk to it and empty the teapot over it. Then you have its future to consider.

Seeing our slight hesitation, the man at the garden centre suggested we cut the roots off, but it seemed inappropriate to begin the season of goodwill by dismembering the tree.

In an absently generous moment I told the children they could choose which one we would buy. They singled one out in seconds, shaking its branches and nibbling the needles and generally testing for soundness. It was a magnificent specimen, symmetrically bushy, uniformly green and with a firm grip on its needles. If you had to criticize it you might possibly have asked, "why is it growing out of its pot at an angle of 50 degrees to the ground?" But this seemed such an easily rectified foible, we bought it.

It was dark when we got home, so we spread newspaper on the floor and brought inside the tree, the pot we use on these occasions and some potting compost. We would just transplant it, we thought.

It was not easy. The pot was perhaps a little too small for the job and the roots were not the pliable snakes we had hoped for but a solid, uncompromising knot. After half an hour's experiment, we were faced with three possible ways of planting the tree: we could have the roots underground and the tree on a slant, or we could have the roots above ground and the tree straight, or we could have the roots underground, the tree straight and the pot on a slant.





Finally, we settled for the roots underground, the pot on the floor and the tree frozen in the act of falling over. Not because it was the best solution, but because our hair was full of pine needles and the soil had multiplied and regenerated and we were standing in drifts of it.

Maybe, we thought, the cunning placement of baubles would create the illusion that the tree was standing straighter and the room was on a slant.

So we went upstairs and plunged into the uncharted reaches of the wardrobe for the frosted balls, tinsel, cardboard stars decorated with hard knobbles of glue which the children made at play school, and the plastic Santa Clauses, which have spent a whole year sniggering in the dark.

The idea was to decorate the tree more abundantly on the windward side of the lean and less so on the leeward side, thus helping to correct the impression that the whole shooting match was about to crash to the floor.

Unfortunately, although the baubles swing jauntily from the underside of the curve, on the other side of the tree they do not swing or hang at all: they loll. The Santa Clauses look dead drunk.

It's festive, I suppose, in an off-beat, inebriated sort of way, and the children don't seem to mind. Like the tree, they seem to lurch rather than stand upright. They have spent the evening diving into cardboard boxes and bouncing each other off the settee. To them, a 45 degree lean is nothing.

But we shall have to warn visitors to the house. A friend called while we were shovelling the soil out of the sitting-room. She glanced at the tree, cried "Whoops!", dived across the hearthrug and caught it by the baubles. She says it gave her an awful shock. I think I could say the same for the tree.


Burberry Bargains

The Burberry Sale
STARTS 9am FRIDAY 27th December
at 18/22 Haymarket and 165 Regent Street.
Open till 7pm

Some examples of Burberry Bargains:

| | Our Current Price when perfect | Special Price* |
|---|---|---|
| For Men | | |
| Classic style weatherproofs | £160.00 | £120.00 |
| Trench style weatherproofs | £235.00 | £170.00 |
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# THE TIMES DIARY

## Pale blue pencil

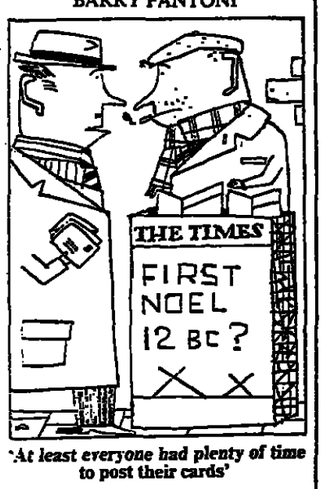
The BBC's top management – rocked by recent charges of weakness – seems to be coming down heavily on some of its lower levels. In a confidential memo, passed to the Diary, the BBC's general manager of local radio, Peter Redhouse, is clearly trying to suppress a tape about Princess Michael of Kent – but he uses the most extraordinary wording. Circulated to all BBC managers it states: "I understand that there is a publisher's tape about to be distributed which deals with a new biography of Princess Michael of Kent. Clearly I have no wish to interfere with your editorial independence, but in view of what I understand about the tape and BBC sensitivity over the Kents following the *Breakfast Time* fracas (the BBC is being sued by TV-am for allegedly lifting its exclusive interview with Princess Michael about the Nazi revelations) I think you should give it particularly serious consideration before permitting it to be broadcast. The tape may of course never reach you. I understand it is being distributed to 'selected' stations only." Redhouse then concludes somewhat menacingly: "I am sure that 'selected' managers will exercise their discretion appropriately . . ." Redhouse was, of course, referring to the tape promoting the biography by Peter Lane. Yesterday Redhouse told me: "I heard the tape was less than polite to the Kents," and later confessed, "But I have never seen the book, nor do I know the name of it, the author or even the publisher." He denied any charge of interference.

● **China, I learn, has just bought *Yes Minister* from the BBC – the 45th country to do so. It is to be dubbed, appropriately, into Mandarin.**

## Credit side

Brian Sedgemore's attacks on City institutions have not, surprisingly, won universal acclaim in the labour movement. Ray Shuttleworth, general secretary of the Bank of England staff organization, has just sent a stinging letter to the Labour MP deploring his "constant smears" against the Bank and its governor, Robin Leigh-Pemberton – "widely regarded in the labour movement as an industrious man of the highest integrity." The Bank and the City are "massive" contributors to Britain's invisible exports, says Shuttleworth. Sedgemore's "caricature" of them, he concludes, "is not only ludicrous but smacks of cheap political opportunism".

BARRY FANTONI




*'At least everyone had plenty of time to post their cards'*

## TNT for two

Princess Margaret cannot eat anywhere she fancies but her sniffer dogs *suffer no such inhibition*. Seconds before she arrived at *The Mail on Sunday* to accept a cheque on behalf of the NSPCC, a scream was heard from a secretary. One of the tail-wagging labradors had sniffed out – not a bomb – but her lunch, and was caught only when midway through her cream doghnut. Princess Margaret, when informed, said: "How unfortunate. We shall have to make sure she gets another lunch." I understand the Kensington Palace takeaway has not yet arrived.

## No room . . .

Peter Mandelsom, the new Labour head of publicity, has taken to heart the fears expressed, and reported here, about the fact that he shares a house with a full-time worker for David Owen. He is selling his share of the house and moving to a new place of his own.

● **The two books sandwiched between copies of Sara Keays' *A Question of Judgement* in Hatchards, Piccadilly? *Fair Warning* by Sir Walter Salomon and Julian Critchley's *Westminster Blues*.**

## Thoughtful

I doubt that the 2,000 Mirror Group employees just made redundant were too overjoyed at receiving Captain Bob's Christmas gift – a book on Oxford United. Still less so by the accompanying Christmas message. "The number of copies *distributed* has increased as the Pergamon group has expanded," boasts Maxwell; "25,000 copies of this book will be distributed in 1985 and if we include the children and dependants of people working in our group of companies they will reach 100,000 . . . We can look forward to a secure future . . . A happy 1986 to you and your family and friends".

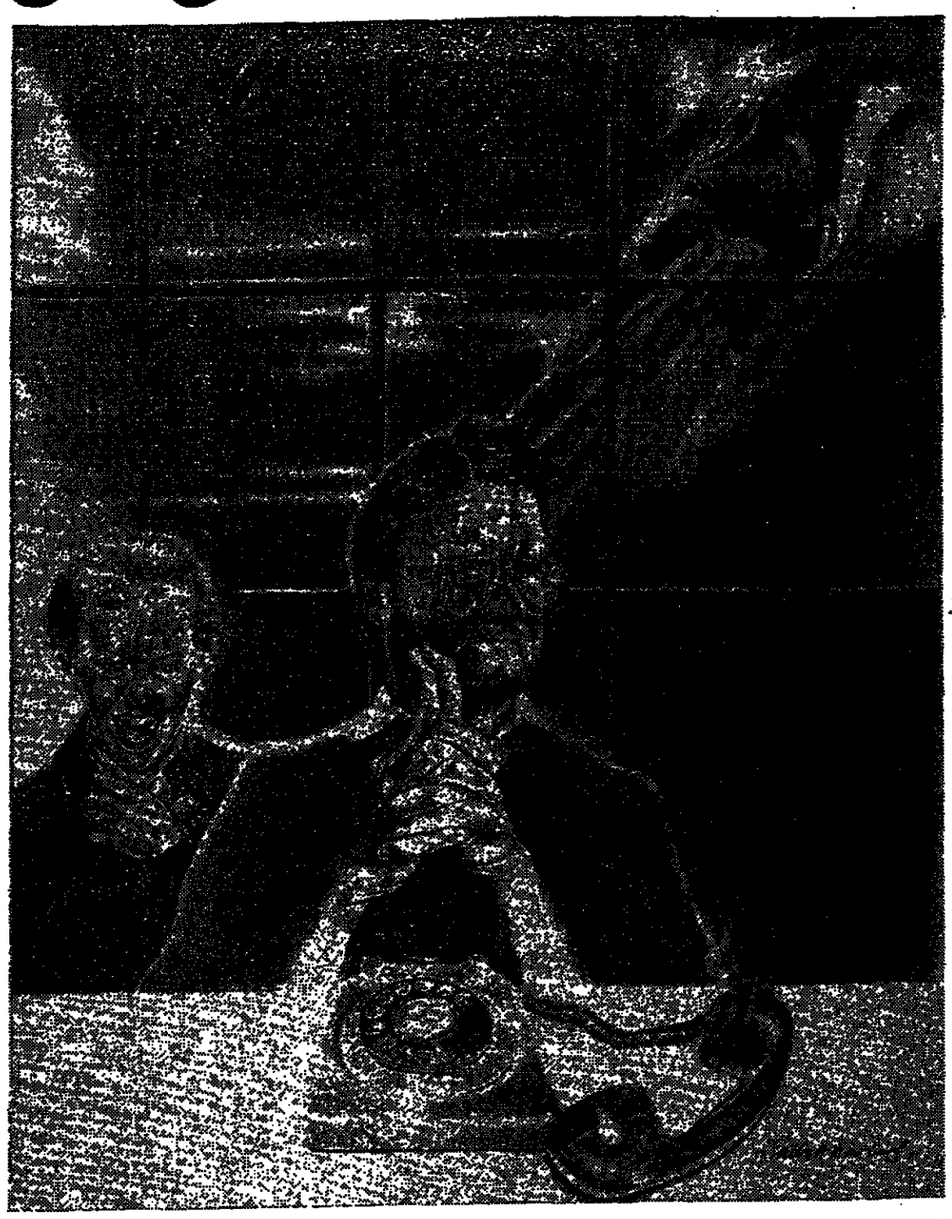
**PHS**

Prize winning novelist Peter Ackroyd dials a Christmas story with a difference

# Ringing in the good news

*". . .the army of spirits, once so near, has been receding farther and farther from us, banished by the magic wand of science from hearth and home."*

J. G. Frazer, *The Golden Bough*



Kevin returned home from the hospital in a state of mild imbecility; his wife, Claire, had been about to give birth for the past 12 hours and he had not slept or eaten as he waited. He blamed the delay upon his mother-in-law, Vera, whose presence always seemed to reduce his wife to a kind of nursery torpor. And it had been Vera who had eventually ordered him away.

"Kevin darling," she had said, patting her hair into shape (for the occasion she had tied it behind her head in a bun as if, Kevin thought, she were a nurse in a field hospital), "Kevin darling, do go home. We can manage perfectly well". It was the voice of the professional organizer; it never varied at weddings or at funerals, at christenings or at cocktail parties. He had been hearing it all his life and, as usual, he obeyed.

The telephone rang and he was so tired that he gazed at it incuriously before going towards it. "Kevin darling." It was Vera again, her voice higher so that it seemed both more peremptory and more triumphant than ever. "It's a boy! It's a lovely boy!" He said nothing in reply but when he replaced the receiver, those words still echoed in his head as he noticed how warm it was for the early autumn.

He had been hoping that, before Christmas came to end another year, he might have a child – it seemed to represent his real purpose in the world, a duty he felt bound to undertake. But now that it had happened it was more like a wonderful gift – a gift both to him and to Claire but, more mysteriously, also their gift to others. He took the telephone and danced with it in a small circle. "It's a boy," he whispered. "It's a boy!"

The memory of that first exhilaration did not leave him until they returned with the baby. Then he saw how pale and tired his wife was, how bright and plump his son – in that respect, at least, the infant already resembled Vera whose energy had redoubled as that of her daughter began to fade. In sympathy with Claire, Kevin began to feel very tired as well. "Is there", he said, "anything I can do? Shall I boil some water?"

"Kevin darling, what on earth would we need boiling water for? This isn't the 19th century. Why don't you be a poppet and see to Claire's things?"

"I only thought. . . ." He looked enquiringly at his wife, who was presenting the child to Vera. Then she said, "Mummy's got it all arranged".

The telephone rang and, in his confusion, Kevin picked it up without saying anything. There was someone talking faintly at the other end, and he heard the word "joy" or "toy" before putting down the receiver. "There must be a crossed line", he told them, almost apologetically but they were not listening to him. Vera was holding the baby in the air while Claire gazed at it solemnly. So my child, he thought, has become one more reason why they can ignore me.

The dusk of early winter cast its thin gloom over Kevin as he tried without success to read Benjamin Spock's *The First Year of Baby's Life*, and when the telephone rang he rose to answer it with a certain relief; his mood of pleasurable anticipation changed to one of incredulity, however, when he heard Vera saying softly but quite distinctly, "It's a boy. It's a lovely boy. . .". It was the fact that she was whispering which really disturbed him. "Vera?" The dialling tone returned and he was already blushing when he called her back. "Vera?"

"Kevin, angel. I'm already out of the door. Tell Claire to wait."

"Did you just talk to me?"

"Of course not. Why should I talk to you?" But she added: "Is there anything the matter with the baby?"

"No. Nothing's the matter. I'll tell Claire to expect you." When he put down the telephone he crept to the foot of the stairs, and listened intently as his wife whispered to the child.

As the rockets of Guy Fawkes' Day exploded above his head Kevin hurried home through the darkness, worried in case his wife already missed him; when he opened the front door he heard the telephone ringing. He raced towards it and, with his coat half-falling from his shoulders, picked it up to hear Vera shouting at him, "It's a boy! It's a lovely boy!" With a sudden rush of anxiety he slammed down the receiver, and stood panting in the middle of the room.

He climbed the stairs slowly, as if in pain, and found Claire lying on the bed beside the baby's cot. "I thought it must be you," she said without rising to greet him. "What were you doing?"

He was still breathing heavily. "I think I was talking to Vera."

She immediately raised herself into a sitting position, and piled the pillows around her. "Oh what did Mummy want? Did she get that book on breastfeeding?" He was about to explain what in fact had occurred when a bell rang – for one moment Kevin thought it was the telephone again, and gave a start which was perceptible to Claire. But it was the front door, and when he went down to open it Vera was *waiting for him on the threshold*, dangling some keys. "Oh Kevin darling, can you be an angel and get Claire's book from the car for me? You can't miss it."

"Of course." He could not look at her, but stared down at his shoes as *she passed in front of him and went* upstairs to her daughter. With a nervous gesture he examined his watch: it was now 6.15. And when he returned with the book he lingered in the bedroom doorway to scrutinize Vera; she was laughing, her head deliberately thrown back as if the world were being asked to witness her good humour, but she seemed neither ill nor deranged. And yet she must have telephoned him just before coming to the door. "There, there," she was saying now as she took the infant from its cot. "Come to lovely Vera. She could eat you, you're so gorgeous." And the baby, apparently fascinated by this sudden access to his grandmother's face, stuck his tiny fingers in her open mouth.

It was an evening in late November. Kevin was turning on the television at six o'clock when the telephone rang; and as he watched the screen fill with light, casting vague shadows upon the walls, he picked up the receiver and heard Vera shrieking, "It's a boy! It's a lovely boy!"

"Vera, I'm sorry if this is a joke but . . ."

"It's a boy! It's a lovely boy!" To Kevin the voice now seemed hysterical, with an additional ferocity which both alarmed and angered him. He was about to shout back in panic when he looked up and saw Vera's face at the window, her mouth flattened against the glass and rendered a luminous grey by the light from the television. He dropped the telephone. "Let me in, *darling!*" she was saying. "*Your bell* isn't working!" He stared at her. "Kevin darling, have you gone deaf?" And as he looked at her grey mouth he wondered whose voice it was he had heard, a voice which in memory no longer seemed human at all.

A week later, at the same time, he heard it again; he had thought of little else except those disembodied sounds, and he wanted to test his theory that Vera had somehow arranged a recording. He was quite calm but, when he picked up the receiver, his calmness disappeared. "It's a boy! It's a lovely boy!" He remembered what he had to say. "Can you repeat that, please?" There was a slight pause. "It's a boy! It's a lovely boy!" So there *was* someone there, listening to him, hearing his quick breathing and the sudden intake of that breath. He put down the telephone and hurried upstairs; for some reason he now feared that some terrible harm might befall either Claire or the child.

She looked defiantly at him as he *entered the bedroom*. "Mummy told me to rest, so I'm resting. It's good for my milk." But she was clearly puzzled. "Are you all right? You look as if you've seen a ghost."

"It was the 'phone."

"Anyone I know?"

"No. I don't think so." The baby gave a fat gurgle of satisfaction from the cot beside her.

He went downstairs and, in order to calm himself, noted down the time and day of this latest call. But he did not need to look at his own scrawled handwriting to know that *the telephone always rang at six* o'clock on Tuesday evenings. This was the time when Vera had originally called him from the hospital with news of the birth. And who could have known that? Only Vera and Claire, naturally. He put his hands to the sides of his head. Then, he thought, perhaps the baby knew. . . .

When the following week the telephone rang again he snatched up the receiver and shouted, "Who are you? Who put you up to this?" There was a pause, almost out of politeness, and then it began again. "It's a boy! It's a lovely boy!" It seemed to Kevin that these harmless words had become threatening, even sinister, like an incantation designed to raise the dead. The voice seemed about to break into laughter: he could not bear the thought of that, and slammed down the receiver just before Claire entered the room. She looked at him curiously, and in that moment they realized how ill at ease they had become with each other.

"I thought I heard voices."

"It was the 'phone." He dared not look down at it, but pointed his finger.

"Oh? I didn't hear it ring."

"They rang off quickly," he replied without thinking about what he was saying.

"Who were *they?*"

"Oh I don't know. Just the usual." She said nothing, but he noticed that she was biting the inside of her mouth as she stood uncertainly in the middle of the room.

When she left him, he sat down sighing – only to spring to his feet with the thought that perhaps the telephone had never rung, that the voice was only within his own head. All at once he saw himself as the centre of an illness which might infect his wife and child. He went over to the telephone and began minutely to examine it; he did not know what he was looking for, but he wanted to feel its weight and bulk in his now trembling hands. Then suddenly it rang again and with a yell he dropped it to the floor, from the spilled receiver he could hear Vera's voice oozing out. He wanted to scream *abuse* at it but instead he carefully picked it up, holding it a little way from his ear.

"Kevin poppet. What *is* the matter? What was that bloody noise?"

"Nothing." He cleared his throat. "It's just *the phone.*"

But apparently she had not heard him, since she began hurriedly to discuss the arrangements which she had made for them all at Christmas. Oh God, he thought as she talked at him, will I be able to endure all this until Christmas?

On the following Tuesday, at six o'clock, it rang again; but he remained seated and would not answer it. Claire and her mother were shopping for presents, and the noise of the bell seemed to fill the house. But he sat very still.

When at last it stopped, he went to the cupboard under the stairs, took out a can of paint, a brush, and then began solemnly to daub the telephone until it was entirely blue – a bright blue. For some reason this exercise calmed and satisfied him. It had become a battle of wills, the next round of which would be fought on the following Tuesday, which was Christmas Eve.

They were all sitting together on that day, Vera rocking the baby in her arms, Claire watching her, and Kevin pretending to doze. At six o'clock, the telephone rang. He looked up at them quickly to see if they had heard it, too, and when Claire muttered, "Now who can *that* be?" he got up from his chair in relief. "It may be for you," he said to his mother-in-law, "Why don't you answer it?"

"Don't be silly darling, with a baby?"

"Could you get it then, Claire?" He coughed. "I've got a frog in my throat."

She glanced at her mother before slowly picking up the telephone. And then there came the voice again: "It's a boy! It's a lovely boy!" Kevin stiffened and stared down at his infant son, not daring to say anything. But Claire laughed. She handed the receiver to her mother. "Oh Mummy it's you!" Vera listened as the baby tried to grasp the telephone and the voice came again. She laughed also, but clearly she was abashed. "I didn't realize," she said, "how *military* I sound. I'm sorry."

Kevin was astonished at their response, and even more so when his wife walked forward to embrace him. "What a wonderful Christmas present! I knew you wouldn't forget *baby's anniversary! Is it like a* singing telegram?"

"No." He didn't really know what to say. "Not exactly."

Vera was smiling at him. "So that's why you painted the 'phone. We thought you were going dotty, darling."

And Kevin laughed with them, for all at once he realized that the voice had been neither menacing nor inhuman. His suspicions had been absurd; the only evil had resided in his own fear. It was Vera's voice, but, somehow, it had never left the telephone and had become an echo of that joyful mood he had experienced at the first news of his infant son. "So you don't mind?" he asked his wife.

"Why should I mind? I was waiting for you to show some sign."

"Sign?"

"You know." It was her turn to become abashed. "About little Tom."

Tom was laughing now, and Kevin took him from Vera's arms to hold him up to the light. The two women rested the telephone between them, listening once more to the refrain, "It's a boy! It's a lovely boy!" as Kevin realized that these words also represented the spirit of Christmas itself. And at each Christmas they returned.

© Peter Ackroyd, 1985

# Can we move this chess master?

London has just bid a record £600,000 to stage the coming World Chess Championship match between Gary Kasparov, the reigning champion, and Anatoly Karpov. This doubles the offer from our only rival, Leningrad.

The London environment for chess is outstanding and so is our prize fund. There is even a rule that no country may stage two consecutive matches and Moscow hosted the last one. Our case to hold the next match seems cast-iron, but will we get it? The decision – to be made by January – rests unsatisfactorily with Florencio Campomanes, president of the World Chess Federation (FIDE).

Chess is becoming increasingly popular in the UK. In the 1984 Olympics England came second to the USSR in what is, after all, the Russian national game. In the process, our youthful side gained no fewer than four individual gold medals. This year Nigel Short, just 20 years old, became the first Briton to qualify for the World Championship Candidates Tournament and sponsors are flooding into UK chess. There is a boom in British chess literature and home chess computers and the game is rapidly breaking into television.

Unfortunately, FIDE is currently run by officials increasingly regarded by major potential sponsors, grandmasters, and the chess public as incompetent. Campomanes, from the Philippines and an avid reader of President Marcos's political speeches, swept to power in 1982 on a Third World ticket, in the process deposing Fridrik Olafsson of Iceland.

Campomanes's highly questionable decisions over the past 10 months have included arbitrary termination of the 1984-85 World Championship match between Kasparov and Karpov, at the very moment when Kasparov had won two games in a row, and appallingly ramshackle regulations for the Montpellier Candidates' tournament, which resulted in three or four players not knowing whether they had qualified, even at the end of the event. There was also a highly suspect attempt to reselect two match officials who were at the time in public dispute with Kasparov for the last Kasparov-Karpov rematch in November, which Kasparov won.

On top of all this, Campomanes's decision to stop the World Championship last February, the need for the subsequent rematch, and Campomanes' insistence on a "revenge" match between Karpov and Kasparov in 1986, means that the latter will collide with the qualifying cycle for the next championship. As a result chess schedules worldwide have been plunged into chaos.



**Campomanes: challenged**

It is clear that the present FIDE high command has lost the confidence of many players. German grandmaster Robert Hübner recently announced that he will boycott FIDE events until those in charge have departed.

Kasparov has also complained: "I will not take orders from one dictator who happens to be president . . . I am ready to lead the fight *to achieve democracy again* . . . we must return to the time when nobody dared to command chess players around. We are the ones who produce the values in chess, not the bureaucrats. They come and go but our games remain for centuries."

FIDE succeeded in gazumping the Marseilles bid for the World Championship last summer. London and Moscow had offered one million Swiss francs, while Marseilles offered 1.6 million. Campomanes took the unprecedented step of asking the Russians to match it, which they did. He then persuaded them to donate 24 per cent of the prize fund to CACDEC, a FIDE chess fund for developing countries which is ultimately administered by Campomanes. In addition the international Jewish community has been deeply angered by the selection of Dubai for the 1986 Chess Olympics Congress and elections. The Israeli team will not, of course, be granted visas.

At a press conference in Amsterdam yesterday the first steps of political opposition to Campomanes were announced. Lincoln Lucena, president of the Brasilia Chess Association and a former captain and player in the Brazilian Olympic team, has thrown his hat into the ring. He plans to stand for the FIDE presidency in Dubai with a programme of consolidation and open government.

Lucena already has the support of a host of grandmasters and officials, utterly disenchanted with Campomanes's unpredictable decisions. With much of Europe already opposed to Campomanes, Lucena's likely popularity in Latin America (which makes up a quarter of FIDE's membership) may well tip the electoral scales.

Yesterday Kasparov publicly endorsed the Lucena campaign and said it would be supported by the Soviet Chess Federation. The time has come to sweep away the old guard of bureaucrats who treat FIDE and its top grandmasters as their private fiefdom.

**Raymond Keene**

*The author is an international grandmaster and secretary of the Lucena movement in FIDE.*

**Digby Anderson**

# Christmas greetings I could do without

Norman Willis has revealed in *Marxism Today* his "Good read for Christmas": the TUC Unicef report, *Child Labour Today*. Mr Sivanandan, the editor of *Race and Class*, will be sitting under his Christmas tree rapt by the excitement of the GLC's *London Industrial Strategy*. Perhaps they don't like Christmas. *Spare Rib* certainly found some ladies who don't – in a launderette. "I sleep through it . . . listen to Persian music": another blamed the media for "coaxing us as consumers to prop up capitalism for another year".

Well, I am thoroughly for Christmas with one exception – buffets, particularly Stephanie's. She always holds hers on the Sunday after Christmas so this year the cold turkey will be lethal as well as dull.

With luck, it will have run out before we reach it: reaching it, at Stephanie's, takes some time. Restrained by a mysterious etiquette, or more likely a uniform reluctance to face the turkey, everyone arrives together, half an hour late. We then go through the kissing business. This has nothing to do with mistletoe. It is a development of the practice of greeting unrelated persons with a kiss, to be precise two. No longer confined to the acting profession, antique dealers and intellectuals affecting continental sophistication, it is increasingly common at the dinner parties of "comfortable Britain": but at Christmas buffets, thanks to the cold (weather not food) and number of people, it reaches new heights with new consequences.

The first male guest, Tom, rings the bell. The door is opened and Tom's wife, Caroline enters. She moves a short pace into the hall and is greeted by Stephanie, who says "Caroline!" as if Caroline's arrival were totally unexpected. Caroline is staggered. "Stephanie!" she cries, moving towards her. Stephanie pushes her head forward to the left and peers over Caroline's shoulder. Caroline kisses her right cheek, as she does so raising her left leg backward from the knee. Each in turn then says "Mmmmm" or "Ooooo" in a bleating sort of tone, then the other cheek is kissed, leg raised and they say "Happy Christmas".

Stephanie's husband George repeats the performance with Caroline, with the addition that he tries to take her coat. While, he, she and the coat block the hall, and as Caroline slows the procedure trying to take her new gloves off, Stephanie tries to get past to be kissed by the patient Tom. He takes his own coat off and hands it to George who puts them both on the stand. Tom looks worried. He knows he will never find it later either because it is first on the stand or because Stephanie, who is looking daggers at George – "We *agreed you'd take the ladies' coats to the spare* bedroom" – will rearrange them all.

George then confronts Tom, smiles and says "Tom". Tom says "George" but they do not kiss. Nor do they shake hands. In a new departure not seen at all before 1984, George places his hand on Tom's shoulder, pushing down a little then clasps one of Tom's hands between both of his.

Meanwhile, Richard and Lucy, Peter and Susanna, James and Anne, and Richard (other Richard) and Elizabeth have entered and wait for their go, squashed between those already kissing and taking off their coats (done by executing a slow and necessarily contorted full turn) and the door. Their goes actually. There are eight to kiss Stephanie, four to be kissed by George, four shoulder-and-clasps, eight coats taken, then all 10 guests have to kiss or clasp each other in all the permutations. Though in the hall together some time by now, they still appear surprised to see each other. "Anne!" "Peter!"

When it's really under way, the bell goes and Stephanie forces her way to the door to find another 12 guests. As they enter, Tom remembers he has left his headlights on. "Awfully sorry, excuse me, could I . . ." Then Richard (the first one) wants to give Stephanie her present. Has he left it in the car? No, it's in his coat pocket. "George, could you pass me back my coat? I think you put it on the stand."

The compensation is that there's little time left for the buffet. Stephanie makes a punch. Punches come in two sorts; fizzy fruit salads masquerading as potent drink (the host's motivation here is meanness) and powerful mixtures masquerading as light fruit cups (their purpose is to intoxicate guests who do not wish to be intoxicated).

Depending on the type, either ladies, like Anne, who are not used to drink, become blotto and very boring, or drunks like Peter are deprived of their rations and become even more tedious. Stephanie is not mean so we all listen to Anne explaining about the great future as a dancer she could have had if she hadn't married James.

Everyone avoids the turkey. Stephanie has followed the advice of cookery writers who *should know better* and roasted it covered in bacon. Her bacon is that horrid stuff that emits steam and oozes assorted yellowy chemical deposits that stick to frying pans. What it does to the pans it has done to the turkey, which is reeking without and rotting within. The same writers have mistranslated the French "lard" in the terrine recipe as "bacon" so it too is encased in and tastes of horrid bacon. The inevitable quiche is decorated with squares of bacon and the delightful salad of endive, olive oil and wine vinegar has been "finished off" by a sprinkling of . . . crispy bacon pieces.

It's important to leave before Anne starts *showing* Tom just how promising she was on her points. But leaving is tricky. There is only a fine 10-minute period after the hall is unblocked from arriving kissers and coaters and before it is reblocked by departing guests doing the whole business all over again in reverse, "I think my coat was under Richard's, no, other Richard's . . . Mmmmm, lovely party, splendid buffet . . ." (and still apparently surprised) "Caroline!" "Stephanie!".

Sir John Kingman's article on this page yesterday was extracted from the *Government and Opposition/* Leonard Schapiro lecture given at the London School of Economics. The full text is published in the January issue of *Government and Opposition*.

مكبرة من الأصل



THE TIMES
P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

# HOW CONSTITUTIONS CHANGE

Ever since Mrs Thatcher became Prime Minister in 1979 it has been progressively more obvious that the doctrine of collective Cabinet responsibility would never be quite the same again. Anyone who doubted this must surely have had those doubts finally removed by the strange case of the public strife between Cabinet colleagues over the fate of Westland helicopters.

That normally unshockable old Whig, Lord Melbourne, would at least have been shocked by this. At the end of a Cabinet meeting which agreed to propose a fixed duty for corn, he is said to have put his back to the door and declared bluntly: "Now, is it to lower the price of corn, or isn't it? It is not much matter which we say, but mind we must all say the same thing." Saying the same thing has never, however, been a characteristic of Mrs Thatcher's government, and there are obvious political reasons for that.

When she became leader of the Conservative Party in 1975, she inherited from Mr Heath a shadow Cabinet which, for the most part, had little sympathy for the change of policy which her election represented. She could, in theory at least, have made wholesale changes. But that would simply have established a rebellious alternative Tory administration on the backbenches. So, with a very few departures, from the front bench, and a few crucial changes of portfolio (concentrating sympathizers in the crucial economic ministries) she kept most of the old guard on. Some of her friends would have preferred a cleaner sweep, but Mrs Thatcher's was probably the right approach. Tory opposition was disarmed – except verbally.

Mrs Thatcher's critical colleagues took every advantage of their understanding that Mrs Thatcher preferred them to be in the Cabinet rather than on the backbenches. First Mr James Prior, between the lines of public and semi-public utterance, mourned the lack of an incomes policy. Then in lectures and weekend speeches, Mr Norman St John Stevas, Sir Ian Gilmour and Mr Francis Pym sounded the tocsin for more public spending as unemployment rose. Eventually the pilot dropped them, one by one.

Only Mr Peter Walker, with a kind of jester's licence to speak for the Wets, and Mr Michael Heseltine, who on that matter has so far been pretty discreet, remain. Now the Defence Secretary has struck out in what he presumably thinks is a winnable cause, pitting himself in the Westland affair not only against the Industry Secretary, Mr Brittan, but also against the Prime Minister.

In these days of mass media, we have long been accustomed to unattributable accounts of internal group struggles over this or that policy in the Cabinet, and Ministers have often waged their campaigns through the media. But at least formally the disagreements have been in private. When they have been let into the open it has usually been with sufficient discretion to enable the constitutional proprieties to survive.

Under Mrs Thatcher, the pretences have been dropped. Collective responsibility has always been an elusive concept, meaning whatever the Prime Minister thought it should. Because of the reluctance to sack and to resign, disagreements are more in the open than ever before. Though our system is commonly criticized for being too closed compared with America's the Cabinet now hardly seems an arcane institution. Public debate on a number of issues has improved as a result. That so significant a constitutional change should emerge under a Prime Minister who is uninterested in formal constitutional change and reform should cause no surprise. Constitutional theory always has and always will emerge from the hard facts of politics rather than from the text-books of professors.

# LIFE OF THE WORLD

The liturgical calendar is a calendar of moods. Lent is for penance, Holy Week for sorrow, and Easter for hope, as Advent is for expectancy and Christmas for celebration. And these are not mere subjective mental states. The progress of the annual cycle of the Christian year was in bygone ages marked by changes of behaviour too, even extending to diet. Shrove Tuesday was a feast, Ash Wednesday fast. Advent was a time of mild austerity, to sharpen the appetite before the year's brief visit to arcadia.

Just to live through these seasons and episodes, observing the rules, was thought to be enough to do you good. And it is well known, and always was before psychologists put a name to it, that behaviour and diet influences mood and thought. So a person's passage through the alternate sequence of fasts and festivals was an experience of mind as well as body – holistic religion.

How decadent we would seem, to those who lived lives regulated by such a calendar. Most of us have kept only the pleasurable bits, Shrove pancakes and Christmas turkey, and cut out those requiring self-denial. If to be hungry beforehand increases the vividness of the pleasure of feasting, if there cannot be peaks without troughs, then we are the losers even by the standards of our own hedonism. It is not the commercialization of Christmas that threatens its spiritual character, but the anticipation of it throughout Advent. The twelve days of Christmas have grown into a full month, starting somewhere around the first week of December.

The Adventist instinct survives, nevertheless, in the pre-Christmas taboo which forbids the premature opening of presents. It keeps the day itself different from any other except a personal birthday, where a similar folk-prohibition keeps us waiting for the proper and appointed time. The parallel does not take much anthropological investigation to explain: Christmas is subject to the same rules as a birthday because it is a birthday, everybody's second birthday, the anniversary of the nativity of a human archetype.

The Son of Man imagery, even before the birth of Christ, gave the expected Messiah a representative character for the whole human species, which could look forward to its own rebirth with his coming. It is the genius of both the Jewish and Christian religions that ultimate deliverance comes from "one of us". They are divided not by that, but by whether it has in fact happened in history, or is yet to come. In Judaism, Advent is the perpetual season, the time of waiting.

It is mysterious how a whole society, and similar societies throughout the world, have preserved the intuition that Christmas is a universal birthday in spite of the decline, at least in the secular West, of other features of Christian observance. By the laws of sociology Christmas should long since have lost any distinctive character at all, becoming a quite featureless period of self-indulgence vaguely associated with the end of December, one day much like another. That may be the way it is going, but it is a long time getting there. And in some respects, December 25 is becoming even more different, not less.

Birthdays, this special one or any other, should be moments for celebration when we congratulate ourselves and each other for being alive. Life (with a capital letter) is good even if its lower case cousin, human life in all its messy detail, contrariness and cruelty, can sometimes be exactly what Hobbes called it: solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short. This positive affirmation is precisely where, in the celebration of Christmas, the Christian doctrine of incarnation and the Christian virtue of hope intersect with the universal instinctive desire for meaning and purpose to life, to make it worth living.

# MORE NEW REALISM

Mr David Basnett, leader of the war party against the electricians and the engineers, has converted to pacifism. Writing on the page opposite a few days ago, the leader of the general and municipal workers declared the use of public money to secure democratic vote-taking in unions a mere "short-term issue". Those long, distracting hours spent at the TUC annual conference in Blackpool on ballot funds were, Mr Basnett now implies, just that, a distraction. He, and with him the broad middle of the TUC general council, wish to move next business. They have convened a special conference in February to dispose of this short-term issue that has preoccupied union thought processes since the Wembley conference of 1982. Their preferred horizon is now March when a consultative conference is scheduled to begin compiling a shopping list of new laws for trade unions.

But if this is repentance, it is singularly graceless. The blunt fact is that Mr Basnett and the general council have had to retreat before Mr Laird and his tactical ballots. The TUC hierarchy now want to make the best of a bad job. In the New Year, Mr Basnett avers, they plan to execute a sharp move. The TUC has a long consultative document in hand on future amendments of trade union law in its favour: from resisting the State and its interest in how the unions, privileged corporations, conduct their affairs, the TUC is to ask the State to restore and expand the unions' arena of legal privilege.

Here is where Mr Basnett is wrong. Money for ballots was not a short term issue. The State's offer of financial assistance for union elections was an offer of legitimation – a paid demonstration that when trade unions took action within their shell of legal privilege that action would command the assent of members. In resisting assistance with ballots, the union leaders were more than just out of tune with their members. (According to a survey of union members by EPIC some two thirds support accepting such money.) They mistook a fundamental trade-off between their claims of privilege and the need to conduct their business in the most open and fair way possible.

The past months of union squabbling over ballot funds have been depressing, but not because they exposed the hollowness of the TUC's authority. The idea of top-down trade union governance is part of the notion that the TUC is an estate of the realm, a partner in national government, an arbiter of social contracts and the like – an outmoded notion. In their determination Mr Hammond and Mr Laird have possibly moved the TUC forward to a more agreed, less directive style.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Giving students a fairer deal

*From Mr Alan Howarth, MP for Stratford-on-Avon (Conservative)*

Sir, In your leading article today (December 18) you say Britain's arrangements for student support have long looked overly generous. It might rather be said that they have looked both expensive and inadequate.

Although there are now a record number of students in higher education in Britain, we are constrained by our inability to afford grants for all those who could be regarded as being qualified for higher education.

The grants we give have been progressively eroded in real value over more than 20 years. We find ourselves in unhappy arguments about the eligibility of students for benefits under the welfare system, about the tax treatment of covenanted payments, and about travel costs as rail fares rise faster than grants.

Coherent principles are doubtless applied to these issued from the various perspectives of the DHSS, the Inland Revenue and the Department of Transport, but to the students the policies appear arbitrary and ungenerous.

The arguments in favour of introducing a loans element into the system of student support are powerful:

More students could go to college and university.
Students would embark on higher education on more equal financial terms.
Students could have more to live off.
The system would be fairer to taxpayers, particularly people on low earnings who are paying taxes to finance the educational privilege of a minority.
The system would acknowledge the fact that those who are fortunate enough to benefit from higher education can expect to go on to a better than average level of earnings in later life.
A number of students would be more careful in their choice of courses and would value more highly the educational opportunities they had.
Students would, at a time when they are moving into adulthood, become more independent both of their parents and of taxpayers.
Flexibility in the pattern of higher education would be facilitated.

After a period of transition the cost to the Exchequer, even if larger numbers were receiving higher education, could well be lower.

For all these reasons student loans are surely worth considering.

Yours etc.
ALAN HOWARTH,
House of Commons.
December 18.

*From Mr Rupert Bristow*

Sir, You are right to suggest (leader, December 18) that there is a paucity of positive thinking in the Government, and in particular the Department of Education and Science, over the issue of student support. Under the present Government grant provision has been steadily reduced in real terms, forcing more and more students to get what they can from housing and supplementary benefits just to make ends meet.

For the Government to propose the exclusion of students from the bulk of these benefits while expecting them to cope with an already reduced grant provision is at best bad planning and at worst a vote of no confidence in perhaps our major investment for the future, the student population.

To suggest that we have an over-generous support system ignores the important point that in most countries where direct student support is on a smaller scale than here the indirect subsidies, on such things as cheap meals and accommodation, are far greater. Increasingly, inflexibility and inadequate funding are features of a policy in decline.

What is clearly needed is an independent review of student support and tuition fee payments, integral and not ancillary to the planning of our further and higher education system, which will bring together the experience of the past with the needs of the future. The tinkering must stop and if the DES cannot think creatively, they should not be afraid to let others have the chance to do so.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT BRISTOW,
Head of Student Services,
South Bank Polytechnic,
Student Services Unit,
Borough Road, SE1.
December 18.

## Face to face with schizophrenia

*From Dr Richard Smith*

Sir, By some poignant stroke of fate I read your excellent editorial on schizophrenia (December 19) while sitting on the Tube with a man who told me he had just been discharged after spending 15 years in a mental hospital. He probably was not a chronic schizophrenic, although he had the abnormal facial and body movements of restlessness that are characteristic side-effects of major tranquillizers, the drugs used to control schizophrenia: more his problem seemed that he had a very low intelligence.

But whatever his diagnosis, his plight was that of many who have been hastily expelled from long-term care. Dishevelled, dirty, and cold, he approached me on the platform and told me that he hadn't eaten for three days – since he was discharged. He then kept repeating the same themes: he had no money, nowhere to sleep, and no job; nobody had spoken to him for three days; and he wanted to go home – to Liverpool.

As your editorial makes clear, this is not an unusual story. But only a minority of *Times* readers, I suspect, know such stories first-hand and why I write is to describe my reaction and that of the people around me.

I wasn't scared because I encountered many such people when I practised as a doctor, but I was wary of him. I didn't believe everything that he told me and, although I gave him some money, I stopped short of giving him the £6 he said he needed to get home on the bus to Liverpool. I could have afforded it but something stopped me: partly I thought he might be conning me; partly I was worried he would attach himself to me; but mostly I felt that it wasn't my problem.

The people sitting around me clearly felt the same: most studiously ignored him and one woman made a very wide and uncomfortable circle in order to avoid brushing against him.

But my point is that I now realize that it is our problem, my problem. Community care, the fully financed version of which you rightly applaud, is not a matter just for governments, local authorities, psychiatrists, social workers, or any other professional group – it is a matter for all of us. And we must change.

All primates tend to reject their deviants, but if we want to think of ourselves as more civilized than apes we must learn – almost like latter-day Christs – to care for (and even love) those whom we find it most hard to care for.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SMITH,
5 Broadhinton Road, SW4.
December 19.

## Turning in theses

*From Professor Conrad Russell*

Sir, I hope that, as a former director of graduate studies in an American history department, I may reply to Dr Palmer's letter (December 9). He says that we "may be sure" that a loan system would involve a faster completion rate.

It seems relevant to look at the experience of the US, where a loan system is in operation. The fact that the increasing length of time taken by the PhD is as much a problem there as it is here is one reason for ascribing the problem, not to a sudden increase in original sin, but to an increase in the complexity of scholarship, and especially in the bulk of known material. If a faster completion rate were achieved examiners might well respond to it with a higher failure rate.

Moreover, candidates financing their studies through loans expect jobs with which to repay their loans. At present, the famine of academic jobs means that such an expectation would be unrealistic to the point of irrationality.

If there is no expansion in the number of jobs, a loan system would mean the total drying up of the supply of PhD candidates. It is to be hoped that all interested parties would agree that this would be a bad thing.

Yours faithfully,
CONRAD RUSSELL,
43 Streatley Road, NW6.
December 9.

## Social work training

*From Professor Robert Pinker*

Sir, Mrs June Lait's letter (December 14) on social science and social work training is misconceived.

It would, of course, be wrong and foolish if social work education looked for preferential financial treatment at the expense of the other social sciences. The social sciences are more likely to survive the present hostile economic and political climate by standing together than by seeking temporary respite at each other's expense.

It is difficult, however, to connect this point to Mrs Lait's subsequent line of argument. It is not true that all of us with a "vested interest" in social work are calling for "yet more social work training". Many of us believe that the quality of social work education can and ought to be improved, but, if necessary, this could be done within the present time scales if the courses become more specialized.

I am not sure what Mrs Lait would count as reliable evidence that "training improves performance" but none of the recent child-abuse enquiries has concluded that the way to improve social work is to abolish professional training altogether. Indeed, the Blom-Cooper report makes some cogent recommendations for its improvement.

Mrs Lait quotes an article describing social workers as "cretinized by greed and sociology". Cretinism is perhaps best used as a term of clinical description rather than abuse. Social workers may have their faults, but I cannot believe that avarice is one of them or understand why sociology should be made specially culpable.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT PINKER,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.
December 16.

## Lloyd's and invisibles

*From Mr J. T. Faber*

Sir, Your front page article today (December 14), following on certain other rather pungent similar notices recently, has finally prompted me to try and put the record just a little bit straighter.

In the apparent absence of any public relations machinery at Lloyd's itself may I, as an ordinary member for 40 years, assure you (and the Government if necessary) that far from its "International reputation being undermined" there is at present a surge of overseas business coming into Lloyd's (and on better terms than ever before) for the simple reason that a Lloyd's policy has an unrivalled security in an otherwise rather insecure insurance world.

There are, however, two things which would help – firstly, for the long-delayed legal action to be seen to be taken against the alleged individual malefactors (an infinitesimal percentage of the active membership); and secondly, for people to stick to the facts and cease making vague privileged statements about other individuals for purely political reasons.

Lloyd's already rather dominant contribution to the country's invisible exports is well set to expand still further, unless of course it becomes another case of "England cannot perish but by Englishmen".

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN FABER,
3, Chester Square,
SW1.
December 14.

## Taxing man and wife

*From Mr J. M. Reynolds*

Sir, If husband and wife were taxed completely independently in accordance with the resolution of the European Parliament quoted in your leader (December 11) presumably the effect in the United Kingdom would be that husbands would be able to covenant income to their wives and vice versa so that the substance of transferable allowances would be achieved, as it already is in the case of couples who choose not to undergo a ceremony of marriage.

Those who oppose transferable allowances, whether achieved directly or through the clumsier medium of covenants, need to demonstrate in this day and age why married couples should be taxed more harshly than unmarried couples.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. REYNOLDS,
2 Tower House, London Road,
Arundel, West Sussex.

## Royal imprint

*From Mr Cormac Rigby*

Sir, This kingdom has the privilege of putting the monarch's head on its stamps as its note of origin. But why are we still using the rather girlish silhouette which disappeared from our coins in the late 1960s? We now have an excellent profile, the third of the Queen on our new coins; isn't it high time the stamps followed suit?

Yours faithfully,
CORMAC RIGBY,
Allen Hall,
28 Beaufort Street, SW3.

## Planning in Oxford

*From Dr R. C. Fordham*

Sir, Reduction of the "threat to the historic environment" of Oxford (December 10) has been an influential policy for at least a decade, since the first county structure plan. New housing in and near the city was limited, and was only encouraged at selected towns some 10 or 15 miles from Oxford.

As a consequence a large number of private-sector housing estates have recently been built some way from Oxford. I have just organised a survey of these. The results show that many of these new residents commute to Oxford, where most of the jobs still are.

Such people, who cannot afford the inflated price of housing in Oxford, suffer various penalties. One of them is fairly easy to measure. Although housing away from Oxford is cheaper, the cost of commuting to the city is much greater than the difference in house price.

In short, the limitations on new housing near Oxford have already exacted a substantial price. It has been paid partly by the very poor, referred to by the Reverend Michael Doe (December 14), but also by the very much larger group of those of average income and below who have been obliged to live further away from their work places by the policy.

Oxford is an example of what has happened in much of southern England. Policies designed to reduce development pressure have been general. Among the consequences have been lowered new housing quality (due to higher land prices) and unemployment (via jobs that might have been created in these locations).

Oxford's environment obviously is important, but so are homes and jobs. Those who issue appeals like Lord Bullock's (December 10) should think more carefully.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. FORDHAM,
Department of Town Planning,
Oxford Polytechnic,
Headington, Oxford.
December 16.

## Domestic water meters

*From Mr H. Fletcher*

Sir, One quarter of water supplied to the mains leaks to the ground, so only 75 per cent is delivered. Of this 54 per cent goes to households (report, December 12, page 3), that is 41 per cent of the original supply to the mains. Of this 41 per cent, it is estimated that over one tenth would be saved by domestic metering of the whole country, i.e., a saving of 4.1 per cent of the original supply quantity.

So householders are to be put to the expense of meters to save 4.1 per cent, whilst the water boards sit on their hands and watch 25 per cent going to waste.

Someone in the UK is half-witted, and it ain't me.

Yours truly,
H. FLETCHER,
14 Dunedin Drive,
East Kilbride,
Glasgow.

## Uganda's plight

*From Lord Buckmaster*

Sir, The present situation in Uganda, which was discussed in the debate I initiated in the House of Lords on December 4, is particularly tragic to those of us who remember Uganda in its heyday. British expertise and dedication, coupled with substantial Ugandan participation, raised the country, in the days of the Protectorate and the early years of independence, to a level of excellence probably unsurpassed in black Africa; and institutions like Makerere University and Mulago Hospital were the envy of most of the continent.

The achievements of these great administrators, doctors, judges, schoolmasters and others are now shrunken and shrivelled, if not wholly withered away.

The collapse of the medical services is particularly distressing: Ugandan friends tell me that people are dying for lack of simple drugs.

The mainstay of the economy used to be the three c's: coffee, cotton and copper. Virtually the only coffee available for export is that already in the Mombasa warehouses; during the last full year exports of cotton amounted to 60,000 bales as against a normal year's output of at least a million bales; and the copper mines at Kilembe were closed several years ago.

When I was serving as a diplomat in Kampala 15 years ago there were about 17 Ugandan shillings to the pound sterling; now there are over 5,000.

On a brighter note I have heard that in the areas controlled by Museveni's National Resistance Movement, where an interim administration appears to be functioning reasonably effectively, efforts are being made to re-start coffee production.

The sub-bestial element in Uganda – the terror, torture and senseless slaughter – has been graphically described in your columns. But there is another element, scarcely ever referred to, which I have no hesitation in calling the supra-human.

Earlier this year the Church of England celebrated the centenary of the martyrdom of some 48 young Baganda who chose to be burnt to death rather than renounce their faith. The spirit of these martyrs has lived on, in men like Archbishop Luwum and many other magnificent Christians.

Church attendance is now about 60 per cent throughout the country and congregations regularly fill churches to the doors. But despite this powerful Christian influence and the desperate longing for peace, fear breeds fear, hatred breeds hatred and, most terrible of all, as in Lebanon, antagonisms become frozen in concrete.

Her Majesty's Government's recent undertaking to help the country get back on its feet is, of course, particularly welcome – more so, perhaps, since many Ugandans feel that in the Amin and Obote days our policy was not as realistic and effective as it might have been.

No country in the Commonwealth has suffered more grievously than Uganda and none more deeply desires and deserves our enlightened concern.

Yours faithfully,
BUCKMASTER,
House of Lords.
December 16.

## Spirit of Christmas

*From Mr D. E. Leighton*

Sir, During my training with a firm of accountants it was understood that one wished elderly lady clients a "Happy" Christmas and never a "Merry" one (letter, December 14).

Yours faithfully,
D. E. LEIGHTON,
16 Lindisfarne Road,
West Wimbledon, SW20.
December 14.

*From Mr Piers Whiting*

Sir, The Post Office seems particularly anxious this Christmas to avoid delay. My wife has just had a parcel from Bournemouth which was postmarked ten and a half months before it was sent.

Yours faithfully,
PIERS WHITING,
Perchwood House,
Tuckenhay,
Totnes,
Devon.
December 19.

*From Mrs Margaret Llewellyn Smith*

Sir, For many years it was one of our family customs to have a picnic on Boxing Day. Preferably lunch would be eaten in the open, but if the British climate did not allow that cars could be lined up alongside each other and soup and sandwiches passed through the windows.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET LLEWELLYN SMITH,
Tettenhall Cottage,
Bagborough,
Taunton,
Somerset.
December 18.

## ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 24 1934

*The weekly feature "Cars of Today" in The Times pre-war, was so popular that for many years they were reprinted annually in book form.*

### CARS OF TO-DAY

### THE BENTLEY

BY OUR MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

The 3½-litre Bentley succeeds in combining high power and speed with a moderate sized engine, quietness, smooth and safe travel, and tractibility – a difficult combination to obtain.

The car submitted for test was the coupé, which has two wide doors: the front bucket seats have hinged backs to facilitate entrance behind. . . .

The 6-cylinder engine has two valves and one sparking plug a cylinder: the overhead valves are worked by pushrods and rockers. On the offside, the plugs are moderately accessible and the two synchronized carburettors with a big circular air-cleaner and silencer, the coil and vertically driven make-and-break and distributor with automatic movement, the water pump with its adjustable gland, and, on the dash, the dual petrol pump are all get-at-able. Either petrol pump will work on its own, and there is a spare coil. The tension of the fan belt is easily altered by hand, in front of the radiator are shutters controlled thermostatically, and it is not difficult to drain the water system. Steering is by worm and nut.

On the other or near side of the engine there are the central exhaust pipe with the three-branch manifold, the generator forward, the oil filler, and, below, the built-in starter. The filter and drain plug must be got at from underneath. On the dash besides the electrical apparatus there is the oil tank for the one-shot chassis lubrication. The engine is attached to the main frame by a pivoted mounting with rubber supports, and is properly damped, so that while it can move vibration is not transferred. The single plate dry clutch passes the power to a four-speed gearbox which has constant-mesh wheels for second as well as third and top and synchromesh for third and top. Here, also, is the mechanical servo for the four-wheel brakes.

This servo is in the form of a friction disk clutch driven from the gearbox. While pressure on the brake pedal applies the back brakes, it also engages the friction clutch on the servo, which, in its turn, operates the front brakes. The pull from the servo is distributed between the front and rear brakes, but in the case of the rear pair this is additional to the direct pedal effect. Provision is made for the correct division of braking between front and back and for evenness of application, while the deceleration force is equally good backwards. The well-placed offside hand lever works additional shoes at the back. The metal-jointed propeller-shaft is open and the fully floating back axle has spiral bevel drive. There is finger-and-thumb individual adjustment for the brakes and the half-elliptical springs are flat and the forward ones shackled in front. The shock absorbers are hydraulic and have special anchorage.

ON THE ROAD

This Bentley breathes refinement and inspires confidence at once. It is clearly no use having a car with high acceleration and speed capacities if there is tail-wag in cornering or if the brakes are too responsive or the steering unsteady. In a fast model every feature must be right and do its duty efficiently. Here there is extreme lightness and ease throughout the control with a smoothness which is silky and graceful, yet power and speed are always plentiful. The car is, in fact, as gentle in its manner and as easy to control in traffic as one of eight or 10 nominal horse-power. It is in the high degree of docility coupled with the other qualities that the art of the designer lies. The engine power is good throughout it range; even when abused at really low speed on top against the gradient with sudden full throttle there was no effort to shirk the work, no noticeable shake, and the speed rose smoothly and quickly. Meanwhile, the engine soon runs through the middle of the range and up into the higher parts – apparently without effort – and it is not really until over 80 that one feels that the engine is trying at all hard. . . .

Specification:–Number of cylinders, 6; Size, 82.5 by 114mm.; capacity, 3,669c.c.; nominal h.p., 25.3; b.h.p., 120 at 4,500 r.p.m.; number of main bearings, 7; overall forward gear ratios, 4.1, 5.1, 7.08, and 11.3 to 1; petrol capacity, 18 gallons; makers' estimate of petrol consumption, 16 m.p.g.; tyres, 18 by 5.5 in.; turning circle, left 33ft. 7in., right, 40ft. 11in.; wheelbase, 10ft. 6in.; track, 4ft. 8in.; ground clearance, 6in.; weight of car, 30cwt. Price, £1,485.

# COURT AND SOCIAL

## SOCIAL NEWS

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra celebrate their birthdays on Christmas Day.

The Duke of Kent, honorary fellow of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, will attend the Faraday lecture at Logan Hall, London University, on February 6.

The Duke of Kent, a liveryman of the Salters' Company, will attend the livery dinner at Salters' Hall, on February 11.

The Duke of Kent, vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Oxford Magnet Technology, Oxford, on February 13.

The Duke of Kent, vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Logica plc., Newman Street, W1, on February 18.

The Duke of Kent, vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Wayne Kerr plc., Bognor Regis, on February 19.

The Duchess of Kent, patron, will visit the Putney branch of the Samaritans, on February 20.

Mr Graham Matthews wishes his friends, at home and overseas, a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

## Marriage

**Mr R. W. Blackburn and Miss P. J. S. Summerhayes**

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 7, at St Peter's Church, Frimley, Surrey, of Mr Robert Blackburn, son of Mr and Mrs G. R. Blackburn, of Eastbourne, and Miss Paula Summerhayes, daughter of Dr and Mrs J. L. V. Summerhayes, of Camberley.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr D. W. Bradley and Miss E. K. Eisenschimmel**

The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs W. Bradley, Yorkshire, and Eva, only daughter of Mr G. Eisenschimmel, Vienna, Austria, and Mrs C. Wickman, Albany, United States.

**Mr M. C. Buffery and Miss C. F. A. B. Oglethorpe**

The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs D. C. Buffery, of Crawley, Sussex, and Charlotte, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs E. W. Oglethorpe of Groombridge, Sussex.

**Mr T. J. Burkinshaw and Miss F. K. Hunter**

The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. Burkinshaw, of Cowley Manor, Sheffield, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. J Hunter, of Coventry.

**Mr G. R. Charlton and Miss M. J. Patel**

The engagement is announced between Gordon Robert Charlton, of Ickenham, and Maya Jashbhai Patel, of Southall.

**Mr P. H-C. Chow and Miss T. J. Blunt**

The engagement is announced between Paul Hsio-Ching, son of the late Mr C. W. Chow, of Hong Kong, and Teresa, daughter of Mr R. M. Blunt, of Perth, Australia, and Mrs Adrien Blunt of 2 Stanwick Road, London, W14 8UH.

**Mr J. M. G. Denham and Miss H. G. Yarker**

The engagement is announced between Giles Denham, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Gillian Yarker, of Gayton, Wirral, Merseyside.

**Mr B. M. R. Higgins and Dr C. S. Froomberg**

The engagement is announced between Brian, elder son of Mr and Mrs M. R. Higgins, of Naivasha, Kenya, and Katie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P. D. Froomberg, of Haven Cottage, Seymour Road, Wimbledon.

**Mr R. C. Lee and Dr M. J. Godley**

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs D. Lee, of Cahors, France, and Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Godley, of Doncaster, Yorkshire.

**Mr P. F. Phillips and Mis S. N. J. Holt**

The engagement is announced between Paul Fraser, elder son of Mr and Mrs H. F. Phillips, of Stanmore, Middlesex, and Stephanie Nicola Jane, only daughter of Commander and Mrs G. J. Holt, of Bridport, Dorset.

**Mr P. M. A. Smith and Miss L. M. Rippin**

The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs M. J. T. Smith, of Aston-on-Trent, Derbyshire, and Leila, daughter of Mrs M. A. Rippon of Rugby, Warwickshire.

**Mr I. P. Anderson and Miss J. M. Gray**

The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Canon and Mrs K. B. Anderson, of Doddington, Kent, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. N. Gray, of Eastbourne, Sussex.

**Mr M. A. Kenny and Miss K. V. Smith**

The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. F. Kenny of Arundel, Sussex, and Valerie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Smith, of Hamgildail, Badachro, Ross-shire, formerly of Kilmacolm.

**Mr D. J. Couvreur and Miss B. M. Lechien**

The engagement is announced between Daniel, youngest son of Mr and Mrs L. Couvreur, of Brussels, Belgium, and Brigitte, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Lechien, of Westerlo, Belgium.

**Mr A. T. Scaramanga and Miss P. J. Cobb**

The engagement is announced between Andrew Theodore, only son of Mr and Mrs T. A. Scaramanga, of Wyck Rossington, Gloucestershire, and Philippa Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Cobb, of Eridge, Sussex.

**Mr S. Smith and Miss P. Gedney**

The engagement is announced between Stephen, elder son of Mr and Mrs R. A. Smith, of Sanderstead, Surrey, and Paula, daughter of Mr and Mrs L. Gedney, of Swinton, Yorkshire.

**Mr M. Tollemache and Miss A. Black**

The engagement is announced between Murray, only son of Mr and Mrs Bentley Tollemache, of Malindi, Kenya, and North Moreton, Oxfordshire, and Alison, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Duncan Bluck, of Elfords, Hawkhurst, Kent.

**Mr J. H. E. Wells and Miss S. J. Bradley**

The engagement is announced between John Henry Edmund, fourth son of Mr A. L. Wells, of Englefield Green, Surrey, and Mrs J. A. Wells, of Surbiton, Surrey, and Susan Jane, eldest daughter of the late Squadron Leader M. R. Potter and of Mrs V. J. Bradley and stepdaughter of Group Captain K. Bradley, of Headquarters, RAF Rheindahlen, Germany.

## N Ireland gallantry awards

The following have been honoured for gallantry and meritorious service in Northern Ireland:

**The Army**

**OBE (Military division)**

Lieutenant-Colonel William Franklin Charlesworth, DWR; Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Anthony Draper, LI; Lieutenant-Colonel Martin Stratton, MBE, PARA.

**MBE (Military)**

Captain George Stewart Anderson, QO HLDRS: Warrant Officer Class I (now Lieutenant) Richard John Anley, INT CORPS: Major William John Hemphill, UDR: Major Ronald Arthur David Kells, UDR: Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) James Charles Longfield, RA: Major Kenneth George McLoughlin, UDR: Captain Frank Robert Ramsey, RRF: Major Reginald Alan Swindley, ROAC: Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Vivian Howard Vaughan, BEM, RCT: Major Robert Howard Weir, UDR.

**BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL (Military Division)**

Sgt (Acting S/Sgt) T Brier, UDR: S/Sgt R J Cunliffe, Int Corps: Cpl (Actin Sgt) Creighton Alexander Ferguson, UDR: Sgt R S Hamilton, UDR.

Cpl J Marks, UDR: S/Sgt P McDonald, RRF: Sgt M Robertson, BEMSE: S/Sgt J Robinson, UDR: S/Sgt (now WOII) D S G Snelling, RRF: Sgt Karen L Southwell, WRAC: Private (Acting L/Cpl) R G Watson, UDR.

**Military Medal (posthumous)**

Sgt Alistair Ira Slater, PARA.

**The Queen's Gallantry Medal**

Lt (Acting Captain) D G C Evans, UDR: WOI F W R Smith, RAOC: Cpl S J Tough, R SIGNALS: S/Sgt (now Acting WOII) L L Walker, Int Corps.

**Mention in despatches**

Sgt (now Acting S/Sgt G G Annand, RMP: Lt-Col R M Arnold, Queens: Private P P Blakely, UDR: Major P D Browne, RGJ: Major P D Browne, RGJ: Capt H Cameron, RHF: S/Sgt P Carlin, INT CORPS: S/Sgt G K Crosbie, RAOC: Lt-Col R W Clarke, RWF: Cpl D Ferguson, RHF: Major C S Grant, Qu Hldrs: Capt (now Acting Major) R Hartley, AAC: WO II (now WO I) B Jameson, RE: Major P J J Kingston, R Signals.

Captain (now Acting Major) C L Le Gallais, R SIGNALS: WO II T E McAuley, RHF: WO II H M McAuley, RHF: Sgt N C G Mears, RMP: Capt P J Moseley, R SIGNALS: LI (now Acting Capt) B Morrell, GREEN HOWARDS: Lt-Col C J Newbould, MBE, GLOSTERS: L/Cpl Linda Newell, UDR: L/Cpl (now acting Cpl) M J Nicholl, UDR: WO II W T Owens, UDR: Lt-Col D C Parker, PARA.

Major J T Pelton, UDR: WO II P V Richart, BEM, QGM, RTR: Sgt M W Robson, INT CORPS: Rifleman R F A Ross, RGJ: Lt-Col J L Seddon-Brown, SG: Lt-Col (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Vivian Howard Vaughan, BEM, RCT: Major A W Snook, PARA: L/Cpl Jane Stevens, WRAC: Col M R Tarver, OBE, RRF (retd): WO I J G Waterworth, RAOC: Lt-Col C B Wallace, OBE, RGJ: Major H P Webb, INT CORPS: Lt-Col C N C Williams, RA: Lt-Col J G Williams, LI.

**Royal Navy**

**The Queen's Gallantry Medal**

Cpl D T Smith, RM.

**Mention in despatches**

Leading Wren Deborah R Allen, WRNS: Capt R H G Fulton, RM: Lt-Col P T Stevenson, MBE, RM: PO (Air engineering artificer) I M A Thomas, RN.

**Royal Air Force**

**OBE (military):**

Wing Commander J R Day.

## Birthdays

TODAY: Sir Denis Allen, 75; Mr Noel Carrington, 95; Mr Colin Cowdrey, 53; Brigadier Dame Barbara Cozens, 79; Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, QC, MP, 52; Mr E. Fernyhough, 77; Sir Stafford Foster-Sutton, QC, 87; Dame Joan Kelleher, 70; Sir Noel Moynihan, 69; Miss Thea Porter, 58; Miss Noel Streatfield, 90; Mr J. D. Taylor, MP, 48; Viscount Thurso, 63; Mr P. S. Ziegler, 56.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Lord Annan, 69; Miss S. J. Browne, 61; Mr Andrew Cruickshank, 78; Mr Kenny Everett, 41; Lord Grade, 79; Sir Peter Matthews, 68; Mr Ismail Merchant, 49; Sir Charles Mott-Radclyffe, 74; Professor Noel Odell, 95; Sir Geoffrey Organe, 77; Mr Nigel Starmer-Smith, 41.

BOXING DAY: Mr Patric Dickinson, 71; Mr Alastair Dunnett, 77; Miss Irene Handl, 83; Sir Christopher Hewetson, 56; Professor Thea King, 60; Miss Jane Lapotaire, 41; Mr T. K. Lyle, 82; Mr Denis Quilley, 58; Sir Mark Tennant, 74.

## Latest wills

Lieutenant-General Sir William John Eldridge, of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, Director General of Artillery, Ministry of Supply, 1945-48, Commandant of the Military College of Science, 1948-51, GOC Aldershot District, 1951-53, and Controller of Munitions, Ministry of Supply, 1953-57, left estate valued at £41,818 net.

Mrs Kathleen Doris Holmes, of East Finchley, London, left estate valued at £1,239,104 net. She left it mostly to her husband and issue.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Bridgeman, Mrs Romayne Georgette Ord, of Barnes, London ..... £772,742

D'Erlanger, Lady, of Mayfair, London ..... £615,483

Esyrs, Mr Charles Harry Edward, of Skegness, Lincs ..... £349,030

Low, Emily, of Palace Green, London ..... £746,301

Smith, Mr Herman Geldert, of Stourbridge, West Midlands ..... £339,997

Tomkinson, Mrs Mildred Julia, of Little Aston, Staffordshire ..... £314,881

Saudell, Gladys Ellen, of Hove ..... £445,765

Stanton, Mr John Roddam, of Cambridge ..... £303,544

## Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr Harry Henry Ognall, QC, to be a Justice of the High Court in the Queen's Bench Division.

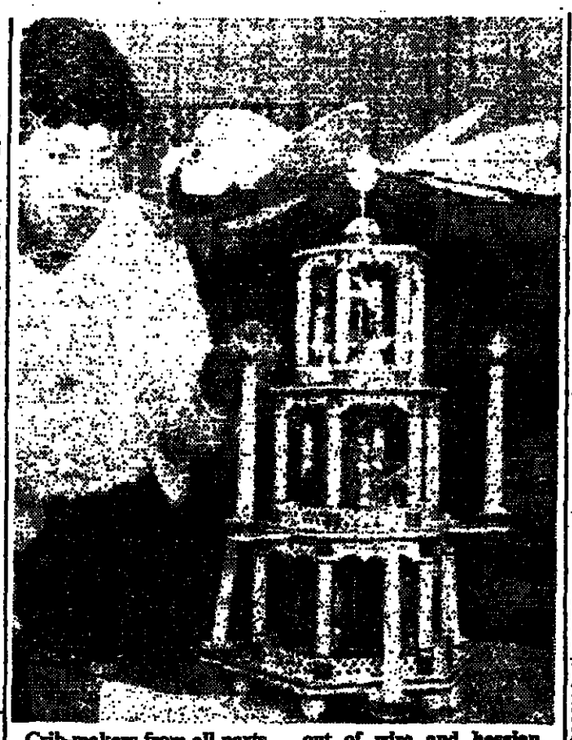
Mr David Hubbard, to be a member of the Board of Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations and the Crown Agents Holding and Realization Board.

Mr T. C. Mitchell to be Keeper of Western Asiatic Antiquities at the British Museum.

Mr Geoffrey Palmer, New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Robert Tizard, New Zealand Minister of Energy and Mr Fraser Colman, New Zealand Minister of Works and Development, to be Privy Councillors.

## Church news

W Hurlworth, secretary of the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance, to be diocesan secretary, diocese of Durham, from April 1.



**Crib-makers from all parts of Britain congregated in a Cardiff church hall yesterday for the finals of the British National Nativitist competition.**

**From an entry of about 400 cribs, 40 finalists had been chosen. There were carved cribs, concrete cribs, ceramic cribs, embroidered cribs, cribs made out of wire and hessian, and cribs created from computer graphics. Other contestants had knitted their Nativities.**

**Miss Pat West, from Rownham, Southampton, is seen here lighting up her eye-catching creation, a glorified angels chimes in which the candles power a musical carousel.**

# University news

The following elections and awards have been made at Cambridge University:

**ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE**

Elected to the title of senior scholar: N G Anderson, electrical engineering; R Beacham, engineering; R D Finn, English; R K Purslow, history; A G O'Brien, mathematics; M J Entwistle, natural sciences; M R Morris, natural sciences.

Scholarships: R W Baddeley, mathematics; G Baker, geography; R S Beattie, mathematics; P Brummell, geography; A C Burdett, medical sciences (veterinary); J D G Morgan, archaeology; J G Coleman, music; A M David, English; J L Dawes, engineering; A J Forbes, natural sciences; J M Gardiner, geography; A C Harper, mathematics; K A Hill, English; E J Horner, geography; D M Jackson, engineering; A J Lamb, modern and medieval languages (Foreyer scholarship); J B Lunt, mathematics; S J McGuinness, mental studies; S G Owen, natural sciences; J P Renard, geography; M D Richer, natural sciences; D Russell, law; A G M Sinclair, archaeology and anthropology; R M Southern, law; J C Tilly, natural sciences.

Re-elected to scholarships: D R Armitage, English; I Brechin, natural sciences; J J Davitt, natural sciences; O G Garside, natural sciences; D M Pyle, natural sciences; Susan Rowland, engineering; C E Shoebridge, law; J S Topping, engineering.

Exhibition: C Dunkley, philosophy.

Named college prizes

Adderley prize for law: R M Sandby.

Drapers' Alexandria prize for engineering: N G Anderson; Belfield Clarke prize for biological sciences: A C Burdett, A J Forbes; Thomas Holmes musical prize: A J S O'Brien; Floyd memorial prize: R K Purslow; Geography members' prize: Susannah Jacobson prize for law: R M Southern; Squibb Francis award (veterinary medicine): J Elliott.

College graduate prizes

Mathematics: A Ashcroft; clinical veterinary medicine: J Elliott, S J Baker.

College prizes

D R Armitage, English, R W Baddeley, mathematics, G Baker, geography, K G Beacham, engineering, R S Beattie, mathematics, P P N Berkins, natural sciences, J G Coleman, music, A M David, English, J J Davitt, natural sciences, J L Dawes, engineering, M J Entwistle, natural sciences, R D Finn, English, J M Gardiner, geography, O G Garside, natural sciences, A C Harper, mathematics, K A Hill, English, E J Horner, geography, D M Jackson, engineering, A J Lamb, modern languages, C C M Jones, mathematics, A J Lamb, modern languages, J B Lunt, mathematics, M R Morris, natural sciences, S M Owen, natural sciences, D M Pyle, natural sciences, J P Renard, geography, M D Richer, natural sciences, K M Sandby, engineering, D Russell, law, A G M Sinclair, archaeology and anthropology, A B Tabor, natural sciences, J C Tilly, natural sciences, E E Tompkinson, law, J S Topping, engineering.

John Hamlin travel awards: R J Meares, J M Wilkin, electrical engineering.

Westcott and Pennell memorial award: J R Stewart.

Robert Burns botanists: J L M Turner.

Betney fund awards: V J C Allen, N G Anderson, D R Armitage, G Baker, P Brummell, L E Edge, R M Green, A M Hemingway, D G Hurst, S J Littlemore, J N Perry, D Porter.

**Aberdeen**

**Appointments**

Senior lecturer

Obstetrics and gynaecology: Peter B Terry, MB ChB (Edin), from January 31.

**Reading**

**Grants**

Medical Research Council: £286,037 to Professor J W Akroyd for genetic studies on polyovirus using infectious cloned cDNA; £109,443 for analysis of the noncoding functions of the genome of polio and related picornaviruses; £58,380 for a medical training fellowship in recombinant DNA.

Natural Environment Research Council: £85,709 to Dr S P Hopkin (zoology and ecotoxicology) to study the ecological significance of trace metals in the diets of soil and leaf litter macrocosm invertebrates.

Science and Engineering Research Council: £93,020 to Dr N J Balmer (biochemistry) to research two-dimensional crystal model generation; £88,080 to Professor J Bennett (construction management) and Dr I P Rochefoucauld (sociology) for improving construction industry performance and cost; £49,686 to Dr P J Mistorove (engineering) for an investigation of a hydraulic accumulator energy balance system with wind turbine applications; £96,607 to Professor R Skeaff (dairy and applied zoology) to study production aspects of anaerobic intracellular rumen bugs.

£102,795 to Dr J K Jones and Dr R Hamilton (physics) for applications of the research improvement of intermediate bandgap materials; feasibility for the breeding of three grain legumes.

Wellcome Physiology Awards Committee: £91,846 to Dr G Rees (engineering) to study intracellular calcium ion concentration measurements in PMNs; £79,682 to Professor C F W Spedding (centre for agricultural strategy) to study integration of forestry for energy with agriculture on farms.

## Science report

# Absorbent gel retains desert water

By Andrew Wiseman

**Soviet scientists claim to have made a significant contribution towards conquering one of the big challenges of today: how to make deserts bloom.**

**A team under Academician Nikolai Yenikolopov, of the Soviet Academy of Science's Institute of Chemical Physics, has synthesized a hydrogel polymer which absorbs and retains water, helping plants to grow and survive in sandy soil.**

**Good harvests can be gathered in arid zones if the land is irrigated, but irrigation does not help in conditions of sandy soil. Because sand has no capillaries to retain moisture, water seeps through to lower layers where roots cannot reach and the plants die.**

**What the Russians say they *have done is to create a* hydrogel to take the place of non-existent capillaries. As it comes into contact with water the compound swells to about 70 times its size, filling the space between individual grains of sand. This prevents water trickling through and all the moisture stays in the upper layers of the soil.**

*Hydrogel particles are a* single macro-molecule, built of molecular chains, forming a resilient net. In its dry state the gel is tangled and compressed. *When it comes into* contact with water the net uncoils and stretches. If there is enough water it swells until the molecular chains have exhausted their resistance and a balance has been created between outside pressure and the elastic force.

This happens when the gel *has absorbed the maximum* amount of water. As the pressure increases, the gel and water separate, allowing the root system to draw the moisture off. Experiments have shown that roots can absorb almost 95 per cent of the water released by the gel.

Professor Yenikolopov is somewhat reticent about the formulae of the molecular chains forming the hydrogel particles, restricting himself to disclosing that they can be built by collecting "different modifications of hydrophilic polymers". One example he gives is a polymer of starch and polyacrylic acid.

The application of the hydrogel polymer give additional bonuses; the compound stimulates plant growth. Barley radicles are said to grow 45 per cent faster on gel enriched soil and the length of barley roots increases by between 15 and 28 per cent.

Furthermore the hydrogel does not attack the soil's microflora and helps to keep plants alive in areas with a poor rainfall or inadequate irrigation. If as little as 0.1 per cent of gel is added to soil (by weight) it still keep moisture above the critical point at which plants die for between 20 and 40 days.

Hydrogels are under trial in the arid fields of Uzbekistan and other parts of the Soviet Union.

## Christmas Day services

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Choral Pt. To us the more (Wood); Responses (Redshaw); Psalms, Gloucester, Te Deum (Vaughan Williams in G); Jubilate (Britten in C). This day Christ was born (Byrd); 11 Sung Euch, Kent Service (Fellowes); 3 Evensong, Nunc dimittis (Stanford), The Dean; 3.15, Choral Responses (Reading), Norwood in A flat Canticles.

YORK MINSTER: 7.15, 8, 8.45 HC; 10 Sung Euch Stanford in C, O magnum mysterium (Gabriel). The Dean; 11.30 Pt. Collegium regale (Howells), in quasi Public Procession, The Archbishop; 4.15, Murrill in F. Love came down at Christmas (Moore). Hymns O little town of Bethlehem, O come all ye faithful.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC; 10.30 Choral Mr. Tollfree and Te Deum (Stanford in B Flat), Very Rev Alan Webster; 11.30 HC, The Coronation Mass (Mozart), A child is born in Bethlehem (Schutz); 3.15 Choral Evensong in D. For unto us a child is born (Handel), Hodie Christus natus est (Gowenlock).

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 11.30am today Choral Eucharist (HC 10.30) M. Right Rev E. G. Knapp-Fisher; 11.40 Procession (Est Song Exult); 3 Festal Evensong.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 11.30am today Midnight Eucha, Missa brevis in D (Mozart), Let all mortal flesh (Shrubsole), Ding dong merrily on high (Wood), Shadow of Southwark; 11 Eucha, St Nicholas Mass (Rutter), Ave Verum (Mozart), Where is this goodly fragrance (Willcocks). The Provost.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace, SW1: 8.30 HC; 11.15 Sung Euch, Darke in F, Canon A.D Gedge.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 8.30 HC; 11 Sung Euch, Darke in F, The Chaplain.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE, Guildford, SE10 T: HC, The Chaplain.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11.30am today Midnight Service of Holy Communion; 11 Choral HC, Archdeacon of Johannesburg.

GRAY'S INN CHAPEL, Holborn, WC1: 8.30 HC.

TOWER OF LONDON, EC3: 11.30am Holy Communion, Mass for Christmas Day (Gibbons).

TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP and HC, Te Deum (Middleton) (Vaughan Williams in G), Jubilate Deo (Vaughan Williams in G), Psalm Two and Sweetest Babe (Vaughan Williams in G), Responses (Rose), Nunc dimittis (Ebdon) in G, Psalm Cxviii (Howard Davies in G), Psalm Civ (Howard Davies in G),

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# THE ARTS

Galleries: **John Russell Taylor** reviews the Christmas shows

## Fascinating odds and ends of European cargo

**Lost Magic Kingdoms and Six Paper Moons**
Museum of Mankind

**Beatrix Potter: The V & A Collection/ Shots of Style**
Victoria and Albert Museum

**Stars of the British Screen**
National Portrait Gallery.



*Shots of Style:* Irving Penn's *Black Hat Vogue* (1950)

Some years ago, Rhode Island School of Design had the very jolly idea of inviting an artist (Andy Warhol, no less) to "Raid the Icebox" of their Museum of Art, and come up slowly with a show of whatever he would, familiar or unfamiliar, important or sublimely unimportant, art or but-is-it-art?, the only criterion of admission being whether it started up some sympathetic vibration in his own psyche.

Since then many major galleries have done likewise, not least our own National Gallery, now embarked on its second series of *The Artist's Eye* exhibitions. But since everything in the National Gallery is somehow on view, there is a limit to the number of surprises any particular artist can pull on us. Not so, however, with the bottomless chests of the British Museum or its handy annexe the Museum of Mankind, and Eduardo Paolozzi's cull from the latter's resources, **Lost Magic Kingdoms and Six Paper Moons** (to run indefinitely), offers one of the most entertaining and stimulating exhibitions on show at the moment, as well as making a few serious points amid its manifold surprises and shocks.

The idea, very fruitful as it turns out, was to let Paolozzi be unashamedly personal in his choice and in the way he displays it. That is, the personality is not just implicitly there in the selection. Rather, the things that are shown are such as inspired, or might have inspired, Paolozzi's own work, and they are all mixed in with bits and pieces of Paolozzi which prove and illustrate the point.

Paolozzi is not, of course, the only twentieth-century artist who has been turned on by primitive art and, at a later stage, the more sophisticated fascination of what primitive artists have made of odds and ends of European cargo, often divorced from its function or creatively misunderstood and reapplied. A lot of Paolozzi's own art comes about in the latter way. He has become intrigued by the patterns of computers' insides, for instance, and has used them for their own decorative value, with no reference at all to their basic function. He has seen all kinds of possibilites in mass-produced rubber stamps and process blocks for popular printing, undreamed of by their original creators. Of course he would be immediately sympathetic to the craftsman from Ghana who made an oil lamp from an electric light bulb and a tin can, or the wood-carver who carefully reproduced a transistor radio in his own materials.

A lot of the show's effect is in the precise way it has been put together, in roughly defined subject-categories but essentially following out the patterns of association in Paolozzi's own mind, and, more importantly, the dictates of his artist's eye. In a sense, it all becomes one enormous Paolozzi installation of found objects – which, after all, it quite literally is. All of human life is here – and human death too, for naturally a lot of primitive ritual is concerned with dealing with death and if possible keeping it at bay. Perhaps one should therefore make the ritual obeisance to children's supposed sensibilities by noting that very young children might find parts of the show frightening. But, in spite of that, it is one of those rare shows which will surely appeal to all ages on all levels, and could be totally boring to nobody.

Another such is the Victoria and Albert's small but enchanting display of Beatrix Potter: The V & A Collection (until February 2). The immediate excuse (if any excuse were required) is the appearance of an imposing and scholarly book of the same title (published by the museum with Frederick Warne at £30) which catalogues, and reproduces a gratifying number of, the Potter collections of Leslie Linder and his sister Enid, both left to the museum in the last few years. But the show itself needs no specialized knowledge, and is provided with a low stool to enable children too small to see conveniently into the cases to get there without adult help.

There are some of the more familiar Potter characters included – how could there be no Peter Rabbit or Jemima Puddle-Duck? – but the extraordinary beauty and exactitude of her natural history records will probably come as a surprise to many admirers, and there are preparatory sketches, rejected versions (of which perhaps the most beautiful is a folding project for a Christmas card showing the outside and inside of a field-mouse's nest, all to scale) and examples of the miniature, almost microscopic, letters she wrote to her young relations. For adults there is a bonus in the witty and apposite captions, which refer us from the first section of *The Rabbits' Christmas Party* to Renoir's *Les Parapluies* and take mild ironic issue with a recent commentator who has pegged *The Tale of Mrs Tittlemouse* as "an allegory of the exploitation of defenceless women".



*Alphabet design from the V & A Beatrix Potter show*

As long as Beatrix Potter remains in print her creation can hardly be viewed as a "lost magic kingdom". But one cannot help feeling with the photographs in David Bailey's show **Shots of Style** (until January 19), at the other end of the Victoria and Albert, that the magic is enhanced as we move further and further back, so that the whole thing becomes a Proustian exercise in the recovery of lost time.

This is achieved through a parade of great fashion photographs from the Twenties up to date. The catalogue begins, very properly, with the subtitle "Art be Damned", and approaches the but-is-it-art? argument very circumspectly. Which is no doubt wise, in an age when even such a distinguished practitioner as Richard Avedon has been loud about his own preference for his recent work, such as the series of "unsparing" pictures of his own father dying, over the glorious, glamorous fantasies of his Fifties fashion heyday. After all, if we are not too firmly directed, we are perfectly capable of coming to our own conclusions about the relative merits of the two Avedons, and if we come to the conclusion that we prefer the wholly personal fashion work to the later pictures, which merely speak the lingua franca of post-Arbus American photography, that is a judgement which can then be tried on fashion photographers as a whole.

One does notice, also, that the most deliberately "artistic" (or those who have the highest reputation elsewhere) are not necessarily the best: it is not just a matter of consenting to slum. Some of the earliest, such as the Baron de Meyer, are still among the finest. From the Thirties Hoyningen-Huene and Munkacsi are in a class of their own. Later, Irving Penn is wonderful in this field, as in all others, and Bailey himself is no slouch either. So Helmut Newton and all who travel on his back now look a bit dated and silly: let them be another generation's lost magic kingdom.

Similar delights – and occasional reservations – await the visitor to the National Portrait Gallery's photographic show **Stars of the British Screen** (until March 2). Here I must I suppose own up to some trace of interest, since I wrote (with John Kobal) the book which, quite coincidentally, has come to accompany the show, *Portraits of the British Cinema*. However, I had nothing whatever to do with the show itself, so I can quite properly direct your steps there, and reassure you that if you have any nostalgia at all for the great days when Korda ruled the roost and Jessie Matthews danced her way into our hearts, or the rather less avowable delights of Gainsborough costume romance (James Mason with a whip and Margaret Lockwood with a cleavage which put the American censors on their mettle), or Fifties stiff-upper-lippery, then you are in for a good wallow.

Not just that, though: you will also rediscover some forgotten photographers, like the mysterious Tunbridge, the elegant Paul Tanqueray or the versatile Davis Boulton (both the last two happily still with us), who fully deserve another spell in the limelight, and observe the happy and productive involvement of today's grandees like Lord Snowdon and Norman Parkinson with the British cinema, even if for only one film or star at a time. Compared to Hollywood's dream factory, the British cinema was always a cottage industry. But then long after the dinosaurs had gone the small unnoticed proto-mammals survived...



Vivien Leigh in *Caesar and Cleopatra* (1946), a touch of nostalgia photographed by Wilfrid Newton

## Theatre

**Chekhov's Women**
Lyric

The overwhelming justification for this anthology (final performances next Sunday: 4.30 and 7.30) is that it conveys some idea of how Vanessa Redgrave, Frances de la Tour, Julia Swift and Rachel Kempson might approach a wide selection of Chekhov roles in productions permitting such luxury casting.

The evening is full of fresh and illuminating detail. There is Redgrave's Yelena fumbling through an easy piano piece while Astrov addresses his speech on Russia's forests into the empty air. There is Miss Swift's Natasha, totally cowed by an unusually assertive Olga. There is Miss Kempson as Charlotta, confiding her doubts into a mirror, with her back to the audience. There is Miss de la Tour, linking the desolation of Sonya to that of Chekhov's widow, writing love-letters beyond the grave.

David Leveaux's production also contains some apt and revealing scenic parallels: such as the sight of Miss Swift switching from the Masha of *The Seagull* to the Masha of *Three Sisters*, dispatching two unwanted husbands off the premises. Olga's declaration that she would gladly marry an old man is followed by Yelena's rueful confidence as a woman who has actually done so. Then there is a surprise repeat of Masha's confession of her love for Vershinin: first played pathetically (with Redgrave's Olga hiding her head in a sheet) and then boisterously, with an oom-pah accompaniment and de la Tour flinging a tambourine into the wings.

For all such insights, the selection of material is extremely eccentric: as appears even from the printed programme, which finds space for Chekhov and Knipper's letters, and *The Lady with the Lapdog* (at which point performance gives way to a prolonged reading by Miss Kempson), while omitting anything from Arkadina, Ranyevskaya or Nina. The performance opens with an acting class for which the ladies line up to be torn to shreds by Stanislavsky (Peter Wight), who was certainly no oracle in Chekhov's opinion. Stanislavsky tells them that they must devote themselves to real tasks and never seek to arouse a feeling for its own sake. They answer him by asking for props, with which they then carry out his instructions to the letter. They sort through old clothes, they carry furniture about, they strum the piano, they arrange each others' hair. Sometimes this is dramatically telling: as where Redgrave's Yelena masks her embarrassment in the pleading Sonya's love to Astrov by plucking hairs from his jacket. At other times it simply gets in the way of the scene.

What survives, even in the most irritating moments, is the sense of an intimate female world. Unlike any full-length production I have seen, the atmosphere is conspiratorially quiet and full of rapid, spontaneous emotional change; as where the sisters giggle over Natasha's appaling dress sense, or where Sonya and Yelena make friends and drink into the night, foreheads touching over a little table. Physical caresses grow naturally out of the lines, as do bursts of laughter and song. Of the characters sketched in these tiny extracts, the one I should most like to see developed is Redgrave's Olga, no longer the wilting schoolmistress but a survivor with a sense of fun.

**Irving Wardle**

**Babes in the Wood**
Richmond

Richmond enjoys the reputation of staging lavish, sustaining pantomimes, and this year the theatre management were kind enough to give me four tickets to facilitate a proper road-test in the company of twin sisters (four-and-a-half) and their chauffeur (38). The experiment was an unmitigated disaster.

Holly and Rose are bright, well-behaved and no strangers to this form of entertainment, but it was not long before they were using the seating as climbing frames and uttering plaintive cries of "When's it going to be over?". Good point. On Saturday afternoon the first half alone stretched to a rump-numbing 90 minutes, which is far too long to expect the most angelic tots to keep their seats.

The problem seems to lie, parodoxically, in the company's very embarrassment of riches. Peter Wyngarde as the Sheriff of Nottingham (actually, "Antony Sher-if of Nottingham"), Spike Milligan and Bill Pertwee as the harlequin-clad, stumblebum Robbers, Patrick Cargill as the rouged and bewigged Nurse Goodbody, and the television comic Ken Goodwin as Freddie the Jester – any one of these could carry a more modest pantomine virtually on his own.

Here, sadly enough, each has to be allotted his contract's-worth of on-stage time, to the detriment of the narrative (which children should, after all, be encouraged to follow) and to the utter destruction of any idea of pace.

Mr Goodwin has to be indulged in the matter of strumming a ukulele and singing a number which seems wholly extraneous to the story, while Mr Milligan's "anarchic" attempts to make Mr Pertwee corpse found no response among the younger spectators in our section of the house.

The writer and director of this feeble farrago, Jimmy Perry (creator of *Dad's Army*, *It Ain't Half Hot, Mum* and *Hi-De-Hi*), should keep his "star" performers in after school and give them a stern housemaster's pep-talk on the virtures of discipline. Parents or surrogate parents should take their charges to *Jack and the Beanstalk* at the Shaw.

**Martin Cropper**

LENNON
...and Sundays too
ASTORIA THEATRE



The perpetrators: Ebenezer Prout (left), who rejected Handel's manuscript; Sir Thomas Beecham, who set out to shock the purists; Sir Malcolm Sargent, who threw in the heavy brass

Musicians may have squirmed (or simply giggled) last night when Radio 3 ushered Christmas in with the notorious Beecham/Goossens recording of Handel's *Messiah*, but it was by no means the funniest thing to happen to Britain's best-loved masterpiece on its way to international recognition:
at the height of the *Messiah* open season, **Richard Morrison** reports

## Murder at the Crystal Palace

No piece of music has been massacred more often than *Messiah*, and we British regularly mug Handel's masterpiece more often than any other nation, especially at this time of year. It is true that the Germans, who still delude themselves that Handel was at heart a home-loving boy who somehow mislaid his return ticket, have celebrated this tercentenary year by giving *Messiah* its first staging in a Deutsche Oper production which had the chorus popping up from trap-doors and a lady singing "I know that my Redeemer liveth" with a flower-pot on her head. The Americans have their quaint traditions too. I understand that everything stops in Salt Lake City when the Mormon Tabernacle Choir renders *Messiah* in those tasteful orange blazers. And recently London heard what a Japanese choir could do to the oratorio: a very small-scale performance.

But in Britain we can call on centuries of expertise to enable us to give *Messiah* the performances it so little deserves: the ones where perspiring ranks of balding tenors go for their top As with a mounting sense of mass hernia, and trombones and clarinets spring from nowhere – certainly not from the scoring of George Frideric.

It was Handel himself who started all the messing about. As every schoolchild used to know, he completed the work in just 24 days – thus spending less of his life writing *Messiah* than many a devotee has spent performing it. Unfortunately, though, the first performance was given in Dublin, and in those pre-Balfe days when the Irish were considerd rather an unknown quantity in matters musical. So Handel contented himself with scoring for a tiny orchestra.

But for subsequent English performances he started tinkering: an oboe here, a bassoon there. In fact at nearly every performance he seems to have changed something, and very lucky for today's "authenticity" brigade that he did. It allows every new recording that comes along to announce itself as the "first modern performance" of some version or other.

It was after Handel's death that the big "improvements" were made. I have nothing against Mozart, but I am with Mendelssohn in declaring that in Mozart's *Messiah* orchestration "the flutes and clarinets make me shudder". This year, of course, the Mozart version was sung in German to open the Proms; the chorus "For unto us" producing many a snigger in the Albert Hall with its Lehár-like cries of "Wunderbar!".

The Victorians perpetrated some terrible crimes against Handel in the new Crystal Palace: 500 players, 4,000 singers, some 87,000 innocent bystanders. All sorts of instruments of torture were added, none more brutal in its assaults than Distin's Monster Drum, which made its début in 1857. Its seven-foot diameter required a skin said to have been made from "the largest buffalo skin ever imported to England".

A lot of academic ink has been shed recently over whether these gigantic Victorian performances were really symbolic of British military imperialism, musical manifestations of the doctrine of "might is right" – or whether in fact they simply meant that 4,000 people liked singing *Messiah* together. Either way it was not long before those good old "traditional Victorian values" – commercialism and exploitation – asserted themselves in this field. Vincent Novello was the genius who realized that if he printed an edition cheaply enough the potential sales would be enormous. So he did. It was full of errors, but no one else knew any better and it sold a staggering 20,000 copies in three years. The vocal-scores empire, on which the mighty publishing house of Novello still rests, was inaugurated.

Considering the fortune the firm must have made, they were exceedingly tardy about producing a better edition, but about 50 years later they turned to a diligent, hard-working academic called Ebenezer Prout, whose idea of recreation was to make up little rhymes to fit Bach organ fugues. Every biography of Prout emphasizes how diligent and hard-working he was, and for this edition he diligently went back to Handel's original manuscript, a revolutionary motion – and promptly rejected what he found.

In our own century the accretions have continued. There is, for instance, the strange case of Sir Thomas Beecham. His first *Messiah* recording was thought radical: speeds were exceptionally fast, dispelling Victorian sentimentality for good, it seemed (though cynics argue he only went that fast to fit the choruses on to 78rpm discs). But by 1959 Beecham, now on his third *Messiah* recording, felt in expansive mood, and commissioned Eugene Goossens to make what has become a legendary orchestration, full of exotic percussion touches which Handel unaccountably overlooked. In a typically overbearing sleeve-note Beecham predicted that his version would shock "drowsy armchair purists". He was wrong. I understand that his recording is frequently played at parties where musicologists are present, and vastly enjoyed by all. Last year someone tried to perform the Goossens version, but mercifully the parts had gone astray.

It would be wrong to forget the brass-band version of *Messiah*, done by one Denis Wright in the 1940s and not enjoyed by those tuba players who have the unenviable task of pumping out Handel's bass for three hours; and the Malcolm Sargent Wartime Emergency Edition. This was cobbled together when Sargent discovered that the Albert Hall organ had been temporarily put out of use by enemy action, and recruited a sizeable brass ensemble to compensate.

In 1965 Novello at last produced a decent edition, edited by H. Watkins Shaw. The fun should have stopped there, but it did not. For some reason the Prout edition was kept available in tandem, and it still has many disciples. In this anniversary year, for instance, Novello hired out the Watkins Shaw version 103 times, but Prout still clocked up a respectable 38 performances.

It is not too difficult to understand this love for the "traditional approach". Up in Yorkshire, the 200-strong Huddersfield Choral Society thunders through *Messiah* twice every Christmas. That means a tenor like Richard Barraclough, with more than 25 years' service behind him, has notched up nearly 60 *Messiahs*. "Some people", he told me sternly, "are under the impression that the Huddersfield Choral Society has performed *Messiah* every year since its foundation in 1836." Oh. "That is not the case." *Oh?* "But we have done it annually for well over 100 years." Ah.

Another seasoned *Messiah* performer is the Welsh tenor Kenneth Bowen, who has passed his century of singing the tenor solos (100 performances, that is, not years). "Did my first one in 1954, I think." Bowen thinks that nowadays choirs are reluctant to engage professional soloists for *Messiah*, preferring to pluck soloists from their own ranks. "It's all to save money. The annual *Messiah* performance is the only thing that keeps many choirs from bankruptcy."

That mercenary consideration is confirmed by John Crisp of the National Federation of Music Societies. "*Messiah* is still top of the pops with our members", he declares crisply. "But you may be surprised to learn that Rossini's *Petite Messe solennelle* is coming up fast. It only needs a couple of pianos and a harmonium, you see, so the choirs don't have to pay orchestral fees."

I can hardly believe that the Huddersfield Choral Society will be switching to twice-yearly Rossini just yet. But, if they do, I rather hope they discover a suitably bloated edition by Ebenezer Prout.

## Television

## Gathering sun-spots where we may

According to a survey in the current *Listener*, only Polish television matches us for Christmas spirit. Japanese screens are devoted to the National Budget. American screens to films like *Incest, the Creeping Menace*, and American charts to a song of Yuletide cheer called "Grandma got run over by a reindeer". Having spent quite a few Christmases abroad, I was interested to see a programme entitled **Sunshine Christmas** (Channel 4).

Introduced by a jolly fat woman with a naughty chuckle called Rustie Lee – no relation evidently of Peggie or Christopher – it promised the Caribbean jingles of one's snowless childhood. Beautiful girls, gyrating in bright bandanas, a svelte black singer in sunglasses and an audience that looked as if it was plotting the next coup.

It was something of a shock to discover this was not Rio or Barbados, but a night-club in the lesser known sun-spot of Peckham. "Christmas is the time for the family", warbled Bevin Fagan to the words of Chief Femi Olufolabi and the limbo-dancing Fagan family – but there was probably no room at this inn for anyone under 18.

The secret of Mike Yarwood's success – like that of Benny Hill and Stanley Baxter – is not to be seen very often. Mike Yarwood's Christmas Special (ITV) contained two hilarious sketches – one featuring that dotty BBC weatherman at a party in the Met Office and the other bringing us David Frost's interview with Reagan and Gorbachev. The rest was pretty lame.

Yarwood went through his well-honed impersonations of yesteryear – Robin Day's *Question Time* (with Kinnock's Christmas wish for a well-organized party), Prince Philip, Max Bygraves and *'Allo, 'Allo* ("Some of the girls can-can, most of the girls do-do"). There was a dreadful take-off of Bob Geldorf and a grotesque sequence of girls tap-dancing in a giant bowl of crisps. Yet again famous faces were wheeled on and off to be insulted (to Shirley Bassey, "Are you the stripper?").

On the occasion Yarwood showed his own face it was that of a nonentity in a shiny dinner-jacket who told jokes, much like Ronnie Corbett, as if they had happened to him.

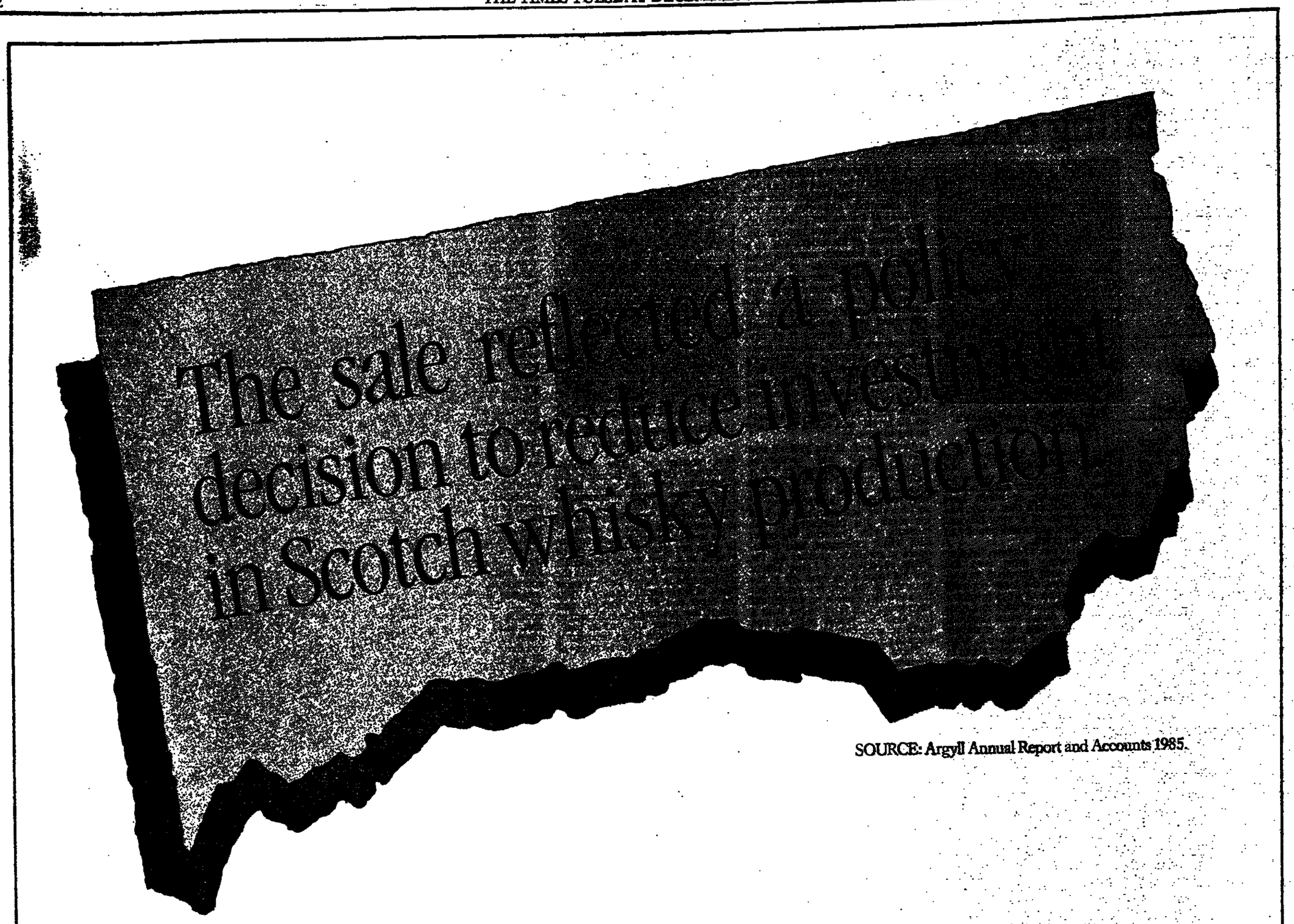
His worst mistake, and he makes it every time, is to sing. He simply cannot and no amount of scripted joking about this can alter the fact that, compared with Shirley Bassey, who was wonderful, Yarwood has a voice like a seasick donkey, or, since it is Christmas, reindeer.

**Nicholas Shakespeare**

"JUST IN TIME FOR XMAS"
THE SPECTACULARLY TONGUE-IN-CHIC MELODRAMA" Mail On Sunday
"HILARIOUS" Financial Times
"AN EVENING OF...THEATRE MAGIC" Daily Telegraph
"STUNNING...JOYOUS" Punch Telegraph
"Balance between thrills and laughter is judged to perfection" Sunday Telegraph
"A Wonderful Theatricality" Daily Mail
"SUPERB COMIC PERFORMANCES" Financial Times



DONALD SINDEN
JOANNA McCALLUM CHARLES KAY
A CHICHESTER festival THEATRE Production
THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL
by BARONESS ORCZY Adapted by BEVERLEY CROSS
NICHOLAS HYTNER
CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS: EVENINGS 7.30 p.m. MATINEES: WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY 3.0 p.m. NO PERF CHRISTMAS DAY EXTRA MATS. DEC. 26 & 27 at 3.00
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BOX OFFICE 01-930 4025/6606
01-240 7200 01-741 9999 01-930 6123




SOURCE: Argyll Annual Report and Accounts 1985.

# Eat your words by all means Argyll. But don't try to swallow our drinks.

Above you see the statement Argyll made to their shareholders just 5 months ago.

It was their justification for selling off their Loch Lomond distillery.

Reduce investment in Scotch whisky?

Their current song and dance about a takeover certainly gives the lie to that.

The gentlemen seem to be for turning.

Such about turns may be par for the course in Argyll's retail outlets. There, a product is here today and gone tomorrow.

Not so in the international drinks field.

Building premium brands takes time. Changing tack every few months in the whisky markets of the world spells disaster.

One wonders too, just how many of Argyll's present policy statements would be disregarded when it suited.

Not that they seem to have much in the way of policy for the future of our drinks business.

We believe their offer document contains much unsupported argument and hollow criticism.

Mind you, they do claim to have magical marketing skills that can conquer all.

Funny, these skills didn't seem much in evidence on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond.

## The Distillers Company plc.

This advertisement is published by The Distillers Company plc. whose directors (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. Each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

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THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

**Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet**

# P&O lays strong hand on Euro Ferries helm

Few stock selections for 1986 will now be complete without the inclusion of European Ferries following an intriguing deal announced yesterday by Sir Jeffrey Sterling's P&O. The group is paying £36 million for a key stake in European Ferries which effectively leaves it equipped to launch at its choosing a full-scale bid to create a huge transportation and property business on both sides of the Atlantic.

The mechanics of the arrangement are straightforward enough. P&O is taking control (50.01 per cent) of a company owning just over 20 per cent of the equity in European Ferries. The sellers are the American property pair John Dick and William Pauls. They will hold on to the balance of the shares (49.9 per cent).

Sir Jeffrey joins the board of European Ferries in a move which clearly leaves him with a controlling voice in the affairs and future direction of the business.

The stock market, well into its Christmas festivities, was left to grapple with the implications of the deal. In particular, the European Ferries shares being acquired by P&O are on terms which value them at 125p compared with the 145p in the market ahead of the announcement. Does Ferries have some poor news in store?

An imminent strike by P&O for the whol group is unlikely at this stage. Now he is on the inside track, Sir Jeffrey is bound to want to examine the iperation in more detail before committing himself to a full bid. But quite clearly he has opened up a number of options.

The deal provides P&O with further exposure in the United States property market, as well as strengthening its traditional transportation operations. It certainly looks a comfortable fit.

Sir Jeffrey has remained neutral on the issue of the various fixed link proposals for the Channel. But P&O with its Ferrymaster fleet of juggernauts is a big cross-Channel user. It is one of the biggest freight movers in Europe and as such will be in a strong position whatever decisions are taken about fixed Channel link. It is also an operator – some thing the two principal tunnel consortia conspicuously lack.

Sir Jeffery is also unlocking considerable property potential in the deal. European Ferries has a 44 pr cent shareholding in the up-and-coming Stockley which in turn sits on a strategic 26 per cent slice of the more mature Stock Conversion. The move yesterday clearly brings these into the orbit of P&O, where of course, Ocean also lies.

## Paranoiac's guide to the Distillers fight

Paranoia is beginning to affect the mentality of both camps in the Argyll Distillers takeover fight as the January 7 deadline for a decision from the Trade and Industry Department on whether to refer the £1.9 billion bid approaches.

First there was the public sacking of the Royal Bank of Scotland as lead bank to Distillers for its role advisingon and financing Argyll's offer. Now conflict of interests and conspiracy lurks, in the minds of the protagonists at least, beneath almost every unturned stone. Here are some of the more obvious now being aired publicly and privately:

Cranley Onslow, MP, is both a director of Argyll and chairman of the 1922 Committee. Michael Dobbs is a director of Saatchi & Saatchi, which is acting as advertising agency to Argyll, and chief of staff to Norman Tebbit at Conservative Party Central Office.

Alex Fletcher, a former minister at both the Scottish Office and the Department of Trade and Industry, was recently appointed as a special consultant to Argyll. Sir James Gould, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party, who has said he is against a reference of the bid, is a director of Morgan Grenfell Scotland. Morgan Grenfell advises Seagrams, which is said to be waiting in the wings to buy both the Gordon's gin and Johnnie Walker whisky businesses should Argyll's bid prove successful. Argyll denies it has any intention of selling the businesses.

Some less obvious connections are also being aired. Colin Liddell, of the public relations firm Charles Barker Scotland, who is helping to mastermind Distillers' campaign north of the border, is off to join Guinness and Arthur Bell as head of Scottish corporate relations. Guinness, which shares Broad Street Associates with Argyll as public relations firm, is said to be pre-reference, though it denies making any submission to the Office of Fair Trading.

The Scottish Office is said to be pro-Argyll and against a reference. This story seems to owe more than anything else to the position of Robert McCrone, chief economic adviser to the Scottish Office, as a long standing critic of Distillers.

The position of George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, is not yet known through his parliamentary private secretary, Alex Pollock, has come out in favour of a reference. So, according to Distillers, has Sir Hector Munro, chairman of the Conservative backbench Scottish committee, and David Steel, leader of the Liberals. Mr Steel's office denies any such leaning though Mr Steel's colleague, Paddy Ashdown, MP for Yeovil, is in favour of a reference

One thing is certain. Leon Brittain, the Trade and Industry Secretary, will be bitterly criticized whichever way he chooses to leap on the reference decision.

## Building societies floored by ceilings

The second reading of the Building Societies Bill, the radical overhaul of building societies legislation due to take effect in 1987, has come and gone more with a whimper than a bang. There were only 15 MPs in the chamber to hear the reading. Attention now swings to the committee stage where the large societies hope to secure substantial changes to the original Bill

The problem arises in the conflict between terms contained in the Bill and proposals on conversion to company status which will only be included at committee stage. The Bill lays down limits on the amount of new-style lending the societies can do. Broadly, class 2 assets – second mortgages, for example – may constitute no more than 10 per cent of total commercial assets, while class 3 assets – such as unsecured loans – may only take up 5 per cent of the total. These limits can be amended at any time by order of the Treasury.

So far so good. But the societies were shocked by the unexpected imposition of absolute ceilings of 20 per cent on class 2 and 10 per cent on class 3 assets beyond which Treasury amendments cannot go.

On top of this, there is an absolute limit of 40 per cent of total borrowings imposed on the amount of money societies can take from the wholesale money markets. New building society Acts – which would be needed to change the limits – do not come frequently and the societies believe the limits could quite soon prove too restrictive.

On which case, argues the Treasury, building societies can convert to company status and operate under ordinary banking rules. Yet the proposals on incorporation make this virtually impossible

To achieve conversion, societies would need 75 per cent of investors who vote to be in favour and 50 per cent of borrowers who vote, but the real obstacle is the requirement for a minimum of 20 per cent of the society's total membership to vote.

For a large society like the Nationwide, that would mean persuading more than 600,000 people to vote – a daunting task for any organization. In fact, Nationwide is typical in never having got more than 150,000 members – a tiny fraction of its membership – to vote on any motion in the past. There is little reason to suppose that building society members will emerge from their traditional apathy in the future. The societies' hope is either to have the absolute lending limits removed or the voting requirements reduced.

# Alexander Howden sued in $63m conspiracy case

By Alison Eadie

A claim for conspiracy to defraud, which could lead to punitive damages of $63 million (£44 million), has been filed in New York against the American insurance broker Alexander & Alexander Services and its British offshoot Alexander Howden.

The case has been brought by Pinetop Insurance, a British subsidiary of the American Greyhound Corporation. Alexander Howden had no immediate reaction yesterday.

The claim, filed in New York's Southern District Federal Court, was brought under America's Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organisations Act, which was primarily intended to stamp out organizations like the Mafia.

Pinetop alleges that the defendants executed a scheme between 1977 and 1982 which violated basic insurance principles and defrauded Pinetop of millions of dollars. The claim is for $21 million, which under the Racketeer Act would be multiplied by three in a US court if proved.

The primary object of the scheme, the writ states, was to generate and manipulate huge streams of premium income to allow Howden, A&A and others to strip off excessive commissions, leaving Pinetop and other victim companies with enormous insurance losses.

Pinetop alleges it was induced to underwrite risks, offered to it by Howden subsidiaries, on the understanding that all or part of the risks would be reinsured with companies it believed were safe, namely Ajax Insurance and Beacon Insurance.

Ajax and Beacon, however, turned out to be controlled by A&A and Howden. Both accepted an excessive amount of high-risk business at insufficient premiums, which brought about their financial ruin. Ajax and Beacon are now insolvent and cannot meet their reinsurance obligations. The type of insurance written was largely product liability for American trade associations.



Kenneth Grob: expelled from Lloyd's earlier this year

Pinetop claims that A&A took no steps to end the fraud when it bought Howden in 1982, but instead adopted and perpetuated it.

The masterminds behind the scheme were alleged to include Mr Kenneth Grob, the former chairman of Howden, and Mr Jack Carpenter, a former Howden director.

Mr Grob and Mr Carpenter were two of the so-called Gang of Four in the Howden scandal, in which $55 million was misappropriated from the group. Both men were expelled from Lloyd's earlier this year.

A&A, which since 1982 has paid out more than £26 million in compensation for past Howden scandals it unearthed, is accused in the claim of being joint venturer with Howden before 1982 and an aider, abettor and co-conspirator of Howden companies named in the complaint.

# GEC says Plessey merger vital to UK electronics industry

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

The General Electric Company yesterday dispatched a formal document detailing the terms and conditions of its £1.2 billion bid for The Plessey Company with the claim that it was uniquely placed to bring about an "essential change" in the British electronics industry.

Mr James Prior MP, chairman of GEC, said that Britain's ability to compete on more equal terms with the major international corporations in telecommunications and electronics would be significantly enhanced by combining the two companies.

Success in world markets depended on British companies competing effectively at home and abroad with overseas companies whose scale of operations gave them strength to spend heavily on research and development and the ability to absorb the costs of creating new markets and breaking into existing ones.

GEC said that combining GEC and Plessey would, in turn, form a significant part of a stronger European industrial base through links with leading continental companies, formed to take advantage of harmonization of standards.

Plessey is resisting the takeor, although it has conceded there is industrial logic in combining the companies' public switching activities.

GEC's, in the document, said that nowhere were the opportunities and the penalties for failure more apparent than in telecommunications.

"Lower prices for switching and transmission equipment, shorter product life of new digital apparatus and, above all, higher expenditure on research and development to keep pace with technological change, combine to pose a challenge to the present structure of the British industry.

"The combination of GEC and Plessey would be an important step towards forming in telecommunications and in other electronic systems and products, a stronger UK base better able to fight off foreign competitors at home and abroad."

GEC said that the constructive way forward for Britain in the manufacture of digital public switching systems was for the companies to seek improved efficiency and economies of scale by amalgamating and broadening their customer base for System X into overseas markets.

● Plessey Telecommunications has won a $5 million American order for payphones which could have long-term implications in helping the British Company penetrate the US telephone market (our Technology Correspondent writes).

The Plessey contract, which has been won through the group's wholly-owned US subsidiary, Stromberg Carlson, is for the supply of intelligent (with in-built microchips) payphones which will be manufactured in Liverpool.

Several thousand payphones will be sent to Ameritel Communications, of Florida, for use in metropolitan areas. They are scheduled for delivery early in 1986.

# Beleaguered Cole agrees £10.5m bid

By Teresa Poole

After eight months fighting off unsolicited bids, Cole, the plastics and electronics group, has agreed a £10.5 million takeover by Low & Bonar, the Dundee company with interests in packaging, electronics and textiles.

Cole came under attack in April when Robert Moss launched a hostile £4.8 million takeover attempt. This bid was raised to £5.7 million when Hartons stepped in with an offer worth £6 million.

Both these bids failed, and in October Low & Bonar made a £7.8 million cash offer, which Cole resisted.

The increased offer is accompanied by an announcement that, because of the strong funding position of its pension scheme, Cole will enjoy a five-year holiday from further contributions. In 1984 the company's pension contributions totalled £136,000, and the level of payments would have been expected to rise

The terms of the bid are one Low & Bonar ordinary share for each Cole ordinary share. Alternatively, there is a cash offer worth 310p a share and a loan note offer.

Cole's shares jumped 50p to 321p yesterday, compared with 122p at the time of the Robert Moss bid in April. Low & Bonar were steady at 328p.

Low & Bonar already owns 25.3 per cent of Cole, and the directors are to accept the offer for their 22.3 per cent holding.

Poor results for 1984, when pretax profits slumped from £427,000 to £278,000, created bid interest in the company.

# Noranda to sell Rudolf Wolff

By Our Financial Correspondent

Rudolf Wolff, one of the City's most successful and respected futures brokers, is for sale. The group confirmed yesterday that its Canadian parent, Noranda Mines, is looking for a buyer more involved than itself in financial services.

Despite being embroiled in the tin crisis, Wolff is likely to prove a tempting proposition, It made pretax profits of £2.5 million last year, and the same again in the first nine months of 1985. But no talks with prospective purchasers have been held.

With capital of £28 million and a net worth of £33 million, the group is financially one of the strongest London commodity brokers. It is a member of nearly all the London markets and was recently invited by the Stock Exchange to become a market-making member of the exchange's currency option market.

Sources at Wolff said that there were two reasons for the Noranda decision, taken several months ago. One is the Canadian company's pressing need to reduce its C$2.3 billion (£1.15 billion) of debt. Moranda plans to sell assets worth C$100 million.

The other is that since Noranda acquired a 50 per cent stake in Wolff in 1971, raised to full control in 1982, the broker's business has diversified away from its traditional reliance on the London Metal Exchange.

Financial and energy futures in London and New York are the biggest contributors to group profits. Wolff has also developed a presence in soft commodities.

# Nestlé to increase retail coffee prices

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

A cup of coffee will cost you more from the beginning of next month. Nestlé said yesterday that it will raise its retail coffee prices on January 1, and General Foods, whose main brand is Maxwell House, said it will increase prices soon.

A Nestlé spokesman said that the price of a 100 gramme jar of instant coffee will go up by about 10p. Nestlé has about half the instant coffee market and sets the tone for other brands.

Apart from Maxwell House, General Foods' other brands include Bird's powdered coffee, Café Hag, the decaffeinated coffee, and the Master Blend range of beans. The price of Brooke Bond's Red Mountain brand is also likely to go up.

Pressure for retail price increases has been building up over severa weeks as prices for green or unroasted beans on the world market have soared in turbulent trading on futures markets.

At the beginning of this month the price of coffee in London fro delivery in January was £1,940 a tonne. Last night it wa £2,750 and rising.

Coffee prices have gone up so far and so fast that the International Coffee Organization, which is supposed to keep the price below 140 cents a pound, has suspended restrictions on how much coffee the producers can export. The ICO average daily price yesterday was 204 cents a pound.

The immediate cause of the sharp increase is the likelihood of a much lower crop in Brazil, the world's biggest producer and exporter in normal years. Prolonged drought in the coffee-growing regions is expected to have halved the 1986-7 crop from 30 million bags (a bag is 60 kilogrammes) in 1984-5.

But there is also a longer-term fear of further damage to the coffee trees from frost next year.

World consumption of coffee is about 86 million bags, of which ICO members export 60 million. Production in 1984-5 was 98 million.

## GAF may lift Carbide offer

Wall Street analysts are expecting GAF corporation to increase its $4.13 billion offer for Union Carbide this week.

The bid of $68 a share could be sweetened to about $74 a share, putting a $4.48 billion price tag on the chemicals company.

Mr Samuel Heyman, chairman and chief executive of GAF, testified in court last week that GAF had already secured $600 million in bank finance. But any further offer will depend on Brexel Burnham Lambert, the company's investment bank, which will decide this week how much they can raise.

## IN BRIEF

### Vickers to sell stake

Vickers said its Australian subsidiary, Vickers Holdings Pty, is willing to accept ANI Corporation's Aus$30.8 million offer for its 38 per cent stake in Comsteel Vickers. The sale will conclude the disposal of Vickers' interests in Australia.

### Bid extended

Hanson Trust has extended the expiry date for its cash tender offer for SCM, in the United States, to midnight on January 3.

### Profits slump

May and Hassell, the timber company, saw pretax profits fall from £1.10 million to £152,000 in the six months to September 30. Turnover was up from £42.9 million to £46.4 million. There is no interim dividend.

Tempus, page 15

Brikat, one of the leading distributors of IBM and Apricot microcomputers, has acquired Cytek (UK) and Minster Micro Computers. The takeovers will add two new business centres to the group. Minster, of Kedderminster, Hereford and Worcester, distributes mainly Apricot and DEC microcomputer systems. Cytek, based in Manchester, includes IBM, Apricot and Commodore in its range and offers maintenance and training services.

### Equipu buy

Equipu, the office equipment supplier, is to acquire Oxford Software, a microcomputer supplier, for £35,000 cash plus a share of profits to 1989.

### Nuclear plan

The French state-owned company, Framatome, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Guangdong Nuclear Power Joint Venture Company for the construction of two nuclear reactors at Daya Bay, near Hong Kong.

### £13.9m target

The Albert Fisher Group, the fruit and vegetable merchant, plans to buy Ziff, an American distributor of plastic and paper materials to the catering trade, for up to $20 million (£13.9 million).

Tempus, page 15

Jaguar Cars produced 38,500 cars this year, 15 per cent up on the 1984 record. the 1985 output, with the American market the biggest recipient, comprised 30,500 XJ saloons and 7,950 XJS sports cars.

### Steel deal

The New Zealand Government said yesterday it planned to take an 80 per cent stake in New Zealand Steel and assume debts of NZ$1.14 billion (£445 million) as part of a restructuring of the company.

### Coloroll clear

Mr Leon Brittan, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has decided not to refer the proposed acquisition by Coloroll Group of Worley to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

### Income rises

Personal income in the United States in November increased a seasonally adjusted 0.6 per cent from the previous month, the Commerce Department said. It was the sharpest gain since April's 0.9 per cent.

# Tin market faces 1986 with little prospect of peace or goodwill

COMMODITIES REVIEW

There is a sad but excusable dearth of seasonal cheer and goodwill around the tin market after the past week's developments.

First, France and West Germany, which should know better, blocked a European Economic Community approach to a solution. The gravity of their action, it ought to be recalled, was not that they opposed a particular plan, but that they apparently rejected any solution which involved the International Tin Council honouring its debts.

The ITC then demonstrated the true meaning of its commitment to meet until a "definitive solution" is found: it adjourned until January 14. One could almost forget that the ITC owes £900 million. No doubt, diplomacy will hum behind the scenes, but at this rate the definitive solution will coincide with Judgement Day.

Second the LME, which all along has declared that time is short and that the market is sorely endangered, more or less ensured that the crisis will drag on into its fourth month. The exchange let it be known that the end of January would be a deadline, and said it would meet on January 13 to review progress.

But it was after the LME had announced its strategy that the ITC revealed that it would not assemble again until the day after the LME meeting. The open contempt displayed for the LME will further impair relations between the two bodies – if that is possible.

In any event, it delivers a depressing message: that after more than two months and a lot of talking, the crucial parties are simply not on the same wavelength.

Third, on Friday the LME called on Mr Leon Brittan, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Some LME members hoped that the Government would rescue them. But it is right and proper that the Government avoided bailing out the LME with financial assistance.

That said, the LME delegation might have expected more encouragement than it apparently received. After pushing hard for a united Common Market approach, on the assumption that the other 13 ITC members, notably Japan, would follow suit, the Government is without a policy.

There is a clear absence of political will in France and West Germany to find a compromise

So where do we stand? The preferable outcome by far is that talking produces a solution at the ITC. The banks' proposals are still on the table. They have sensibly abandoned their original demand for 130 per cent cover for the £350 million they are owed, or for the £550 million which Standard Chartered offered. Standard is now realistically talking of much less final financing.

In return, the ITC's member governments have been asked for either legally binding loan guarantees, or an assurance that ITC stocks will be held off the market, or the granting to the banks of a put option which would allow the banks to sell to the governments tin held as security. The banks are adamant on one point: they will not accept a loss on their capital.

The 13 brokers exposed to the ITC have also put their proposals. They reckon that at a tin price of £6,000 a tonne (compared with £8,140 when LME tin trading was suspended on October 24), the ITC will lose £179 million.

The LME brokers offered to assume 10 per cent of that loss, that is £18 million or a tidy £1.4 million each on average. The remaining £160 million would be divided between the producers and consumers on the ITC.

It all sounds reasonable. But the ITC will not pay, and the British Government will not pay. That leaves two possibilities: legal action, and the LME resuming trading. Legal action, which may occur anyway, will take years. So it looks increasingly as though the LME is the only party able to break the deadlock.

## Rescue company mooted

A banker and a metal broker prominently involved in the tin crisis have put a new rescue plan to the International Tin Council.

Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, and Mr and Mr Ralph Kestenbaum, managing director of Gerald Metals, have in their personal capacities suggested the formation of a company which would buy the ITC's stocks.

The company would be capitalized at £270 million, enough, it is estimated, to fincance buying the ITC's tin. It would be owned by banks and brokers, who will take capital in it.

But the catch is that the 22 members governments of the ITC would subscribe £200 million to the new company, after which their obligations would cease.

Bridging finance would be needed on top of the company's capital to help with the orderly disposal of the 85,000 tonnes of tin wich the ITC buffer stock is expected to hold by January 24, when many of its forward purchase contracts fall due.

# Britannia stresses its record

By Cliff Feltham

Britannia Arrow again urged its shareholders yesterday to throw out the £280 million takeover bid from the rival financial services group, Guinness Peat.

Britannia told shareholders they had to decide whether to accept shares in a group whose management boasts four successive half years of increased profits, "or hold shares in one whose management has delivered eight consecutive full years of record profits, earnings and dividends".

The board claims that the offer from Guinness Peat "represents a price/earnings multiple of only 9.8 times Britannia's forecast total earnings per share.

Your have to search very hard to find offers made by companies this year that have succeeded on multiples as low as that".

Meanwhile, the Guinness Peat side acted to end speculation that it might raise the bid in return for a board recommendation. Guinness Peat said its offer was final – although it still has the right to offer more if a rival bid is made.

# Japan cuts growth target

The Japanese Government yesterday set a 4 per cent growth target for the fiscal year beginning next April and said this would be the result of stronger domestic demand.

The growth target, slightly down on the 4.2 per cent rate expected this year, is considerably higher than private economic forecasters in Japan expect. Some expect the effect of the yen's appreciation to reduce growth next year to 2 per cent.

## MARKET SUMMARY

### STOCK MARKETS

| | |
|---|---|
| FT Ind Ord | 1113.5 (+4.9) |
| FT All Share | 672.30 (+1.32) |
| FT Govt Securities | 82.94 (+0.09) |
| FT-SE 100 | 1388.6 (+2.1) |
| Bargains | 23,966 |
| Datastream USM | 104.35 (+0.07) |
| New York | |
| Dow Jones | 1528.02 (–16.97) |
| Tokyo | |
| Nikkei Dow | 13,043.04 (+80.25) |
| Hong Kong: | |
| Hang Seng | 1704.29 (–15.87) |
| Amsterdam: Gen | 254.2 (+3.4) |
| Sydney: AO | 980.5 (+1.9) |
| Frankfurt: | |
| Commerzbank | 1906.0 (+36.9) |
| Brussels: | |
| General | 896.31 (+0.54) |
| Paris: CAC | 257.1 (+4.7) |
| Zurich: | |
| SKA General | 495.20 (+8.0) |

### GOLD

London fixing:
am $325.75pm–$327.60
close $325.75–(£228.75-229.25)
New York:
Comex $327.95

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:

| | |
|---|---|
| Humberside Elect. | 12p +2p |
| Intervis Video | 3.50p +0.50p |
| Selectv | 7p +1p |
| Electronic Machine | 44p +6p |
| Cannon Str. Inv | 98p +13p |
| Munton Bros | 8.50p +1p |
| Sunleigh Elect | 16½p +1½p |
| Allied Colloids | 171p +20p |
| Cole Group | 321p +40p |
| Unigroup | 105p +12p |
| Fobel Intl | 34.50p +3.50p |
| Petranol | 100p +10p |
| Kode Intl | 105p +10p |
| Real Time | 53p +5p |
| Abaco Invs | 27.50p +2.50p |
| Sycamore Hdgs | 12p +1p |
| Greenall Whitl. "A" | 38p +3p |
| Pict Petroleum | 103p +8p |
| ICC Oil Services | 6.50p +0.50p |
| London I.T | 26.50 +2p |
| Consultants (C&F) | 84p +6p |
| Micro Business Sys | 72p +5p |
| Apricot Computer | 72p +5p |
| Microvitec | 18p –4p |
| Aaronite Group. | 36p –7p |
| Firth (G.M) | 68p –9.50p |
| Cifer | 8p –1p |

### CURRENCIES

London:
£: $1.4290 (+0.0043)
£: DM 3.5804(–0.0037)
£: SwFr 3.0052(–0.0068)
£: FFr 10.9819(–0.0208)
£: Yen 289.27(+0.33)
$: Index: 78.2(+0.1)

New York: (Latest):
£: $1.4283
$: DM 2.5043
$ Index: 127.1(–0.3)
ECU £0.609947
SDR £0.764791

### INTEREST RATES

London:
Bank Base: 11½%
3-month interbank 11 15/16–11 13/16%
3-month eligible bills:
buying rate 11 5/16–11 1/4%

US:
Prime Rate 9.50%
Federal Funds 8%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.06–7.05%
30-year bond price 105 17/32–105 19/32%

## WALL STREET

| | Dec 20 | Dec 19 |
|---|---|---|
| AMR | 41 | 41⅜ |
| ASA | 34 | 34⅛ |
| Allied Signal | 48⅛ | 47 |
| Allied Stores | 68¼ | 66⅝ |
| Allis Chalmers | 4 | 4 |
| Alcoa | 39⅝ | 39⅝ |
| Amax Inc | 13⅛ | 13 |
| Amerada Hess | 27⅞ | 27 |
| Am Brands | 66⅝ | 64¼ |
| Am Broadcast | 120⅞ | 120⅝ |
| Am Can | 61⅛ | 61¼ |
| Am Cyanamid | 58⅛ | 58¼ |
| Am Elec Power | 24 | 23⅞ |
| Am Express | 53⅜ | 52⅝ |
| Am Home | 64⅛ | 63¾ |
| Am Motors | 2⅝ | 2⅝ |
| Am Standard | 38⅛ | 38¼ |
| Am Telephone | 25⅛ | 25 |
| Amoco | 62½ | 63 |
| Amco Steel | 9¼ | 9 |
| Asarco | 19 | 18⅞ |
| Ashland Oil | 38½ | 38⅝ |
| Atlantic Richfield | 63 | 62 |
| Avon Products | 28 | 27⅝ |
| Bankers 1st NY | 73⅝ | 71½ |
| Bankamerica | 15⅛ | 15⅛ |
| Bank of Boston | 60⅛ | 60⅛ |
| Bank of NY | 51⅝ | 51½ |
| Baxter Trav | 15 | 15 |
| Beatrice Foods | 45¼ | 45⅛ |
| Bethlehem Steel | 16⅛ | 16 |
| Boeing | 50⅝ | 50⅜ |
| Bowe Cascade | 45⅝ | 45⅛ |
| Borden | 53⅜ | 50⅞ |
| Borg Warner | 24 | 23⅞ |
| Bristol Myers | 67¼ | 67½ |
| BP | 31⅞ | 30⅝ |
| Burlington Ind | 32½ | 32½ |
| Burlington Ntnn | 71¼ | 71⅝ |
| Burroughs | 64⅛ | 63 |
| Campbell Soup | 52¼ | 52⅜ |
| Canadian Pacific | 13⅛ | 13⅛ |
| Caterpillar | 41⅝ | 42⅝ |
| Celanese | 149¼ | 148 |
| Central SW | 27 | 27 |
| Champion | 24⅛ | 24 |
| Chase Manhat | 69⅝ | 67⅜ |
| Chem Bank NY | 45½ | 45 |
| Chevron | 37½ | 37¼ |
| Chrysler | 44⅛ | 45⅜ |
| Citicorp | 49⅝ | 49⅝ |
| Clark Equip | 29⅛ | 29⅜ |
| Coca Cola | 84⅝ | 85⅜ |
| Colgate | 32⅜ | 32⅛ |
| CBS | 116⅜ | 115⅛ |
| Columbia Gas | 39⅛ | 39⅝ |
| Combustion Eng | 30⅛ | 30⅛ |
| Comwith Edison | 29⅞ | 30 |
| Con Edison | 38⅝ | 38⅛ |
| Cons Nat Gas | 49⅛ | 47⅞ |
| Cons Power | 8 | 7⅝ |
| Control Data | 20½ | 20⅜ |
| Corning Glass | 61¼ | 61⅞ |
| CPC Intl | 51⅛ | 51 |
| Crane | 40⅛ | 40⅛ |
| Crown Zeller | 41⅛ | 41⅛ |
| Dart & Kraft | 44⅜ | 42⅝ |
| Deere | 27 | 27⅛ |
| Delta Air | 38 | 39 |
| Detroit Edison | 16⅜ | 16⅛ |
| Digital Equip | 130⅞ | 131½ |
| Disney | 113⅛ | 110⅛ |
| Dow Chemical | 41⅞ | 41⅛ |
| Dresser Ind | 17 | 16½ |
| Duke Power | 36⅞ | 36⅛ |
| Du Pont | 66½ | 67⅜ |
| Eastern Air | 6 | 6 |
| Eastman Kodak | 43⅞ | 48⅛ |
| Eaton Corp | 63½ | 62½ |
| Emerson Elect | 81⅛ | 80⅝ |
| Emery Air Frgt | 16⅛ | 16⅝ |
| Exxon Corp | 54½ | 54⅝ |
| Fed Dept Stores | 66½ | 67⅝ |
| Firestone | 22⅛ | 21⅝ |
| Fst Chicago | 28⅛ | 28⅛ |
| Fst Intrst Bncp | 52⅝ | 52⅝ |
| Fst Penn Corp | 8⅝ | 8⅝ |
| Ford | 57½ | 56⅝ |
| GAF Corp | 63⅞ | 61⅜ |
| GTE Corp | 46⅛ | 45⅞ |
| Gen Corp | 62⅛ | 61⅝ |
| Gen Dynamics | 68⅜ | 68⅛ |
| Gen Electric | 71¼ | 71¼ |
| Gen Inst | 17⅜ | 17½ |
| Gen Mills | 62¼ | 61⅝ |
| Gen Motors | 73⅜ | 73⅛ |
| Gen Pub Utl NY | 16⅛ | 16 |
| Genesco | 3⅛ | 3 |
| Georgia Pacific | 25¼ | 25⅞ |
| Gillette | 70⅛ | 71⅛ |
| Goodrich | 33 | 33⅜ |
| Goodyear | 30⅝ | 30⅝ |
| Gould Inc | 31 | 30⅞ |
| Grace | 47⅜ | 48 |
| Gt Attic & Pacific | 21⅜ | 21⅞ |
| Greyhound | 33½ | 33¼ |
| Grumman Corp | 33¾ | 33⅜ |
| Gulf & West | 48⅝ | 49⅝ |
| Hertz H. J. | 32 | 32¼ |
| Hercules | 38⅝ | 39 |
| Hewlett-Pkrd | 36⅝ | 36⅜ |
| Honeywell | 77⅜ | 78⅛ |
| IC Inds | 48 | 39 |
| Ingersoll | 52½ | 53½ |
| Inland Steel | 23¾ | 23⅞ |
| IBM | 154½ | 153⅝ |
| Int Harvester | 8⅜ | 8⅝ |
| INCO | 12⅞ | 12⅝ |
| Int Paper | 50¼ | 51⅜ |
| Int Tel Tel | 36½ | 36⅝ |
| Irving Bank | 39 | 38⅞ |
| Jim Walter | 41⅞ | 42¼ |
| Johnson & John | 52⅞ | 53⅛ |
| Kaiser Alumin | 16⅞ | 16⅝ |
| Kerr McGee | 33⅝ | 32½ |
| Kimberly Clark | 67 | 66½ |
| K Mart | 35⅛ | 35½ |
| Kroger | 48 | 49 |
| L.T.V Corp | 6¾ | 6⅝ |
| Litton | 79½ | 80 |
| Lockheed | 48½ | 47⅞ |
| Lucky Stores | 25⅛ | 25¼ |
| Manuf Hanover | 46½ | 46 |
| Manville Cp | 5⅝ | 5⅝ |
| Mapco | 37⅛ | 37⅞ |
| Marine Midland | 35 | 35⅞ |
| Martin Marietta | 36⅜ | 36½ |
| Masco | 40⅛ | 40⅝ |
| McDonnel | 73⅛ | 71⅝ |
| Mead | 44¼ | 43⅝ |
| Merck | 134½ | 135½ |
| Minnesota Mng | 90⅝ | 90⅛ |
| Mobil Oil | 30½ | 30⅝ |
| Monsanto | 48½ | 47⅝ |
| Morgan J P. | 62⅝ | 62⅝ |
| Motorola | 37⅜ | 37⅞ |
| NCR Corp | 40½ | 40⅜ |
| NL Industries | 14½ | 13⅞ |
| Nat Distillers | 37¼ | 35⅝ |
| Nat Med Ent | 23⅝ | 22⅞ |
| Nat Semicndctr | 12⅞ | 13⅛ |
| Norfolk South | 80⅞ | 78⅝ |
| NW Bancorp | 30½ | 30¼ |
| Occidental Pet | 33⅜ | 33⅝ |
| Ogden | 33¾ | 33 |
| Olin Corp | 37⅝ | 37⅛ |
| Owens-Illinois | 52 | 52½ |
| Pacific Gas Elec | 20½ | 19⅝ |
| Pan Am | 7⅞ | 7⅝ |
| Penney J. C. | 55⅝ | 55⅝ |
| Pennzoil | 63⅝ | 61⅝ |
| Pepsico | 70⅝ | 69⅜ |
| Pfizer | 53 | 53 |
| Phelps Dodge | 22⅞ | 23 |
| Philip Morris | 86¼ | 86⅝ |
| Phillips Petrol | 12 | 12⅛ |
| Polaroid | 43⅛ | 43 |
| PPG Ind | 51 | 50⅝ |
| Procter Gamble | 70½ | 70 |
| Pub Ser El & Gas | 31⅞ | 32¼ |
| Raytheon | 53⅞ | 53 |
| RCA Corp | 59⅜ | 59½ |
| Reynolds Ind | 31⅜ | 30¼ |
| Reynolds Metal | 37⅞ | 37⅝ |
| Rockwell Int | 36½ | 36¼ |
| Royal Dutch | 62 | 61¼ |
| Safeways | 36½ | 36⅝ |
| Sara Lee | 50 | 50 |
| SFE Sopac | 35¼ | 35½ |
| SCM | 72⅝ | 72½ |
| Schlumberger | 34⅝ | 34¼ |
| Scott Paper | 61⅝ | 50½ |
| Seagram | 47⅞ | 48¼ |
| Sears Roebuck | 39¼ | 39⅝ |
| Shell Trans | 37⅞ | 37¼ |
| Singer | 42⅝ | 42 |
| Smithkline Beck | 77½ | 75⅞ |
| Sony | 19⅛ | 19⅝ |
| Sth Cal Edison | 28 | 27⅞ |
| Sperry Corp | 53⅝ | 54 |
| Std Oil Ohio | 50¼ | 50½ |
| Sterling Drug | 38⅛ | 38⅝ |
| Stevens J. P. | 30⅛ | 30⅞ |
| Sun Comp | 51½ | 51 |
| Teledyne | 301½ | 298 |
| Tenneco | 39⅝ | 39⅝ |
| Texaco | 30¼ | 29⅝ |
| Texas East Corp | 34 | 33¼ |
| Texas Inst | 108½ | 106¾ |
| Texas Utilities | 31 | 31 |
| Textron | 48¼ | 49½ |
| Travelers Corp | 47½ | 47⅝ |
| TRW Inc | 89⅛ | 89⅝ |
| UAL Inc | 50½ | 50½ |
| Unilever NV | 142½ | 139⅞ |
| Union Carbide | 72⅝ | 72 |
| Un Pacific Corp | 53⅝ | 53½ |
| United Brands | 26¾ | 25⅝ |
| US Steel | 25½ | 25⅝ |
| Utd Technol | 45⅞ | 45 |
| Unocal | 27⅝ | 27 |
| Warner Comms | 35⅝ | 34½ |
| Warner Lambert | 49 | 48½ |
| Wells Fargo | 83¾ | 82⅝ |
| Westinghse Elec | 45 | 45 |
| Weyerhauser | 30⅝ | 30⅝ |
| Whirlpool | 48 | 48 |
| Woolworth | 59⅞ | 58⅞ |
| Xerox Corp | 58⅞ | 58⅝ |
| Zenith | 20 | 20 |

### CANADIAN PRICES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Abitibi | 17 | 17 |
| Alcan Alumin | 40 | 40⅝ |
| Algoma Steel | 20 | 20½ |
| Bell Telephone | 41⅜ | 41⅜ |
| Can Pacific | 18⅛ | 18⅜ |
| Cominco | 11¼ | 11¼ |
| Cons Bathurst | 18⅛ | 18½ |
| Gulf Oil | 20¼ | 20¼ |
| Hawker/Sid Can | 23⅛ | 23¼ |
| Hudson Bay Min | 6⅞ | 6⅞ |
| Imasco | 27⅜ | 27 |
| Imperial Oil | 51 | 51⅛ |
| Int Pipe | 43¼ | 43 |
| Mass.-Fergan | 3.00 | 2.90 |
| Royal Trustco | 23½ | 23½ |
| Seagram | 66⅝ | 67⅜ |
| Steel Co | 23⅜ | 23½ |
| Thomson N 'A' | 22¼ | 22⅜ |
| Walker Hiram | 32⅝ | 32 |
| WCT | 17⅜ | 17⅜ |

● Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. u New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

# Share fall continues

New York (Agencies) – Prices opened lower yesterday in active trading of New York Exchange issues.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which eased 0.92 points to 1543.00 on Friday, was down 1.49 to 1541.51 shortly after the market opened.

Declines led advances by 398 to 313 among the 1,036 issues crossing the NYSE tape.

The Commerce Department reported that US real income rose 0.6 per cent in November.

The market finished mixed in heavy trading on Friday after blue chip issued lost early sharp gains in last-hour activity.

Miss Christine Callies of Dean Witter Reynolds said on a day when December stock-index futures and options were all expiring that action was "a lot less hair-raising" than it might have been.

It was a random, erratic day, Mr Michael Metz of Oppenheimer said.

Mr Metz said that money managers who have recently been anxious to buy shares now felt that their positions were adequate and therefore did not feel any urgency to buy at higher prices.

Speculation that the Federal Reserve might cut the discount rate was also a factor, analysts said.

## COMMODITIES

Holidays and quiet currency markets took their toll yesterday. Business was mainly slack, except for coffee, whose meteoric rise continued

Other softs were dull. On the LME, tin cast its gloomy shadow and other metals, even aluminium, were not much in demand.

The listless pound prevented any excitement among financials and precious metals attracted little interest. Oils were traded modestly.

**LONDON METAL EXCHANGE**
Unofficial prices
Official volume figures
Prices in £s per tonne; Silver in pence per troy ounce
Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

COPPER HIGH GRADE
Cash ..... 973.00-974.00
Three months ..... 997.00-998.00
Vol ..... 7000
Tone ..... Easy

STANDARD CATHODES
Cash ..... 960.00-965.00
Three months ..... 985.00-990.00
Vol ..... Nil
Tone ..... Idle

TIN STANDARD
Suspended

LEAD
Cash ..... 267.00-268.00
Three months ..... 277.50-278.00
Vol ..... 1725
Tone ..... Steady

ZINC HIGH GRADE
Cash ..... 493.00-494.00
Three months ..... 499.00-500.00
Vol ..... 550
Tone ..... Quiet

ZINC STANDARD
Cash ..... 467.00-469.00
Three months ..... -
Vol ..... Nil
Tone ..... Idle

SILVER LARGE
Cash ..... 411.00-412.00
Three months ..... 423.00-424.00
Vol ..... Nil
Tone ..... Idle

SILVER SMALL
Cash ..... 411.00-412.00
Three months ..... 423.00-424.00
Vol ..... Nil
Tone ..... Idle

ALUMINIUM
Cash ..... 750.00-751.00
Three months ..... 776.50-777.50
Vol ..... 3775
Tone ..... Steady

NICKEL
Cash ..... 2850.00-2860.00
Three months ..... 2910.00-2915.00
Vol ..... 198
Tone ..... Steady

**MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION**
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 00

GB: Cattle, 100.37p per kg lw (+16.33).
GB: Sheep, 163.24p per kg est d c w (+16.33).
GB: Pigs, 83.47p per kg lw (+2.45).

England and Wales:
Cattle nos. down 85.6 per cent, ave. price, 100.07p (+2.26).
Sheep nos. down 85.4 per cent, ave. price, 189.29p (+20.89).
Pig nos. down 91.0 per cent, ave. price, 83.54p (+2.60).

Scotland:
Cattle nos. down 12.5 per cent, ave. price, 100.58p (-0.06).
Sheep nos. down 46.4 per cent, ave. price, 177.97p (+15.91).
Pig nos. up 210.0 per cent, ave. price, 83.24p (-6.97).

**LONDON GRAIN FUTURES**
£ per tonne

| Month | Wheat Close | Barley Close |
|---|---|---|
| Jan | £113.10 | £112.90 |
| Mar | £115.85 | £115.60 |
| May | £000.00 | £000.00 |
| Jly | £121.05 | £117.60 |
| Sep | £89.35 | £88.55 |
| Nov | £103.30 | £101.55 |

Volume:
Wheat ..... 299
Barley ..... 230

**LONDON MEAT FUTURES EXCHANGE**
Live Pig Contract
p. per kilo

| Month | Open | Close |
|---|---|---|
| Jan | 83.0 | 93.0 |
| Feb | 98.0 | 98.0 |
| Mar | 95.0 | 95.0 |
| Apr | 95.0 | 95.0 |
| May | 94.0 | 94.0 |
| Jun | 94.0 | 94.0 |
| Jly | 96.0 | 96.0 |
| Aug | 95.0 | 95.0 |
| Sep | 93.0 | 93.0 |
| Oct | 98.0 | 98.0 |
| | | Vol.0 |

**Pig meat**
p. per kilo

| Month | Open | Close |
|---|---|---|
| Feb | 100.7 | 101.4 |
| Apr | 102.5 | 102.5 |
| Jun | 98.6 | 100.0 |
| Aug | 98.9 | 98.6 |
| Oct | 104.4 | 104.2 |
| Nov | 105.4 | 105.8 |
| | | Vol.22 |

**LONDON POTATO FUTURES**
£ per tonne

| Month | Open | Close |
|---|---|---|
| Feb | 81.30 | 80.80 |
| Apr | 92.40 | 92.70 |
| May | 96.30 | 98.70 |
| Nov | 75.50 | 78.30 |
| Feb | 89.00 | 88.50 |
| | | Vol.123 |

**BALTIC FREIGHT INDEX**
G.N.I. Freight Futures Ltd report
$10 per index point

| | High/Low | Close |
|---|---|---|
| Jan 86 | 985.0-985.0 | 980.0 |
| Apr 86 | 949.0-949.0 | 949.0 |
| Jul 86 | — | 926.0 |
| Oct 86 | 919.0-919.0 | 919.0 |
| Jan 87 | — | 924.0 |
| Apr 87 | — | 991.0 |
| Jul 87 | 880.0-880.0 | 880.0 |
| Oct 87 | 985.0-985.0 | 985.0 |

Spot: 893.5
Vol.: 52 lots.

**LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE**
Rubber in p per kilo; Soyabean meal, coffee and cocoa in £ per tonne; Gas-oil and sugar in US $ per tonne.
G W Joynson and Co report

RUBBER
All months unquoted
Vol: Nil.

SUGAR
(Raw)
No. 6 at 18.40
Mar ..... 152.80-152.40
May ..... 157.90-157.40
Aug ..... 162.80-162.40
Oct ..... 167.00-86.80
Dec ..... unq.
Mar ..... unq.
Vol: ..... 893.

SUGAR
(White)
All months unquoted
Vol: Nil.

COCOA
Dec ..... 1750-44
Mar ..... 1780-86
May ..... 1793-92
Jly ..... 1804-02
Sep ..... 1815-14
Dec ..... 1818-16
Mar ..... 1838-28
Vol: ..... 3,281.

COFFEE
Jan ..... 2720-2710
Mar ..... 2780-2778
May ..... 2830-2830
Jly ..... 2900-2890
Sep ..... 2935-2930
Nov ..... 2944-2940
Jan ..... 2970-2940
Vol: ..... 11,071.

SOYABEAN
Feb ..... 128.60-28.00
Apr ..... 131.20-30.50
Jne ..... 128.50-28.00
Aug ..... 126.50-25.80
Oct ..... 127.50-26.50
Dec ..... 132.00-28.50
Feb ..... 134.00-28.00
Vol: ..... 135.

GAS OIL
Jan ..... 238.25-38.50
Feb ..... 233.50-33.25
Mar ..... 223.25-23.00
Apr ..... 209.00-06.50
May ..... 201.00-00.00
Jne ..... 200.00-199.25
Jly ..... 199.50-195.00
Aug ..... 200.25-200.00
Sep ..... 205.00-190.00
Vol: ..... 365.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

In quiet trading yesterday, the dollar was lightly offered, to finish lower against most other important currencies.

Dealers said there was little interest, reflecting the absence of either corporate or commercial business.

The dollar ended down against sterling, which scored a useful gain of 43 points, at 1.4290.

The pound's trade – weighted index also improved, closing at 78.2, compared with 78.1 on Friday. In terms of the mark the pound held steady at 3.5825

The dollar was marked down initially, in step with overnight, Far Eastern advices and then, reacting to some profit-taking during the mid-session from across the Atlantic, ended at about its low positions on the day. It ended easier against the mark, at 2.5050 (2.5160).

**STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES**

| | Market rates day's range December 23 | Market rates close December 23 | 1 month | 3 months |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York | $1.4250-1.4315 | $1.4280-1.4300 | 0.41-0.38c prem | 1.30-1.25c prem |
| Montreal | $1.6895-2.0027 | $1.5970-2.0027 | 0.38-0.28c prem | 1.28-1.13c prem |
| Amsterdam | 4.0298-4.0462fl | 4.0341-4.0440fl | 2¼-1¼c prem | 6¾-5½c prem |
| Brussels | 72.93-73.91f | 72.82-73.24f | 14-8c prem | 40-28c prem |
| Copenhagen | 12.9977-13.0303k | 12.9977-13.0302k | 3¾-2¾ore prem | 9¾-8¾ore prem |
| Dublin | 1.1898-1.1723p | 1.1703-1.1715p | 13p prem-par | 5 prem-30p dis |
| Frankfurt | 3.5757-3.5836m | 3.5757-3.5850m | 2¾-1¾pf prem | 5¾-3¾pf prem |
| Lisbon | 227.69-231.11e | 227.77-230.95e | 220-585e disc | 505-1370e disc |
| Madrid | 223.12-224.02p | 223.13-223.97p | 10-75p disc | 135-220p disc |
| Milan | 2437.80-2454.52lr | 2437.80-2446.73lr | 10-15lr disc | 24-32lr disc |
| Oslo | 10.9456-10.9643k | 10.9456-10.9753k | 1¾-1¼ore disc | 3¾-3¼ore disc |
| Paris | 10.9599-11.0223f | 10.9599-11.0099f | par-1¼c disc | 3¾-5¼c disc |
| Stockholm | 10.9628-11.0072k | 10.9628-10.9824k | 1¾-2¼ore disc | 2-2¾ore disc |
| Tokyo | 288.72-290.00y | 288.96-289.58y | 1-¾pf prem | 3¼-3y prem |
| Vienna | 25.16-25.29sch | 25.16-25.23sch | 10-8¾gro prem | 31¾-27¾gro prem |
| Zurich | 3.0002-3.0162f | 3.0002-3.0102f | 1¾-1¼c prem | 5¾-5¼c prem |

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down 0.1 at 78.2 (day's range 78.1-78.2).

**OTHER STERLING RATES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Argentina austral | 1.1448-1.1477 |
| Australia dollar | 2.0977-2.1023 |
| Bahrain dinar | 0.5370-0.5410 |
| Brazil cruzeiro | 1448.0-1455.7 |
| Cyprus pound | 0.7710-0.7810 |
| Finland markka | 7.8400-7.8800 |
| Greece drachma | 214.0-216.0 |
| Hong Kong dollar | 11.1430-11.1540 |
| India rupee | 17.30-17.50 |
| Kuwait dinar (KD) | 0.4130-0.4170 |
| Malaysia dollar | 3.4700-3.4798 |
| Mexico peso | 815.0-885.0 |
| New Zealand dollar | 2.6378-2.6570 |
| Saudi Arabia riyal | 5.2010-5.2410 |
| Singapore dollar | 3.0248-3.0299 |
| South Africa rand | 3.6117-3.6348 |
| United Arab Emirates dirham | 5.2315-5.2715 |

**DOLLAR SPOT RATES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ireland | 1.2220-1.2240 |
| Singapore | 2.1780-2.1810 |
| Malaysia | 2.4310-2.4330 |
| Australia | 0.6795-0.6805 |
| Canada | 1.3975-1.4065 |
| Sweden | 7.8700-7.8800 |
| Norway | 7.6650-7.6750 |
| Denmark | 9.1025-9.1125 |
| West Germany | 2.5040-2.5050 |
| Switzerland | 2.0940-2.0950 |
| Netherlands | 2.8255-2.8275 |
| France | 7.8725-7.8825 |
| Japan | 202.42-202.52 |
| Italy | 1718.5-1720.5 |
| Belgium(Comm) | 51.20-51.30 |
| Hong Kong | 7.8060-7.8080 |
| Portugal | 160.50-161.50 |
| Spain | 158.45-158.55 |
| Austria | 17.62-17.64 |

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Exbel.

## MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Activity was largely concentrated on the overnight and the short dates yesterday. Money was 11 3-8-1-4 per cent in the early stages before the forecast.

Business was in the range of 10 3-4-1-2 per over much of the morning and 10-9 per cent during lunch. There was a dip to 8-7 per cent towards the end of the day but the close firmed to 9. 1-2-9 per cent.

Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 11½
Finance House 12

Discount Market Loans%
Overnight: High 11 Low 8
Weak fixed: 11¼-11

Treasury Bills (Discount %)
Buying / Selling
2 months 11⅝ / 2 months 11¼
3 months 11⅝ / 3 months 11¼

Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 month 11⅜-11¼ / 2 months 11⅛-11
3 months 11⅛-11¼ / 6 months 11⅛-11⅛

Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 month 11⅝ / 2 months 11⅛
3 months 11⅝ / 6 months 11⅛

Interbank (%)
Overnight: open 11¼-11 close 12-9
1 week 11¼-11 / 6 months 11⅞-11¾
1 month 11¼-11⅛ / 9 months 11⅞-11¾
3 months 11⅛-11⅛ / 12 months 11⅛-11⅛

Local Authority Deposits (%)
2 days 11¾ / 7 days 11⅝
1 month 11¼ / 3 months 11⅝
6 months 11¼ / 12 months 11¼

Local Authority Bonds (%)
1 month 12¼-12 / 2 months 12⅞-11⅞
3 months 12-11⅝ / 6 months 12-11⅝
9 months 11⅞-11⅝ / 12 months 11⅝-11⅜

Sterling CDs (%)
1 month 11⅛-11 / 3 months 11⅞-11⅝
6 months 11⅛-11 / 12 months 11⅛-11⅛

Dollar CDs (%)
1 month 8.20-8.15 / 3 months 7.90-7.85
6 months 7.85-7.80 / 12 months 7.95-7.90

### EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dollar | call | 8⅝-7⅞ | |
| 7 days | 8⅞-8⅝ | 1 month | 8⅝-8¼ |
| 3 months | 8-7⅞ | 6 months | 8-7⅞ |
| Deutschemark | call | 5-4 | |
| 7 days | 5⅞-5¾ | 1 month | 4⅝-4½ |
| 3 months | 4¾-4⅝ | 6 months | 4⅞-4¾ |
| French Franc | call | 9-8 | |
| 7 days | 9¼-9 | 1 month | 13-12½ |
| 3 months | 13⅛-12⅞ | 6 months | 13⅜-12⅝ |
| Swiss Franc | call | 1¾-1½ | |
| 7 days | 10⅛-12 | 1 month | 4¾-4⅝ |
| 3 months | 4⅝-4⅜ | 6 months | 4½-4⅜ |
| Yen | call | 7¼-6¼ | |
| 7 days | 8⅛-8 | 1 month | 8⅛-7⅝ |
| 3 months | 7⅝-7⅜ | 6 months | 7-6⅞ |

### GOLD

Krugerrand* (per coin):
$328.00-330.50 (£229.73-331.00)
Sovereigns* (new):
$78.25-79.25 (£54.50-55.25)
*Excludes VAT

### ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period 6 November, 1985 to 3 December, 1985, inclusive: 11 812 per cent.

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

| 1985 High | Low | Company | Price | Ch'ge | Gross Div % | Yld % | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 181 | 87 | Adec | 98 | +1 | 2.8 | 2.8 | ... |
| 680 | 580 | Alliance | 675 | ... | 26.1a | 3.9 | ... |
| 155 | 118 | Amer Trust | 134 | ... | 4.3 | 3.2 | ... |
| 302 | 245 | Ang Amer Sec | 290 | ... | 8.1 | 2.8 | ... |
| 152 | 133 | Aberdown | 150 | ... | 4.2b | 2.8 | ... |
| 120 | 88 | Atlantic Assets | 117 | ... | 2.8 | 2.4 | ... |
| 182 | 83 | Bankers | 98 | ... | 3.9b | 4.0 | ... |
| 184 | 152 | Berry | 162 | -1 | 1.5 | 0.9 | ... |
| 182 | 152 | Border & Slthrn | 162 | ... | 5.1 | 3.2 | ... |
| 219 | 57½ | Br Assets | 58 | ● | 10.8 | 18.7 | ... |
| 33½ | 25 | Br Empire Sec | 32 | ● +½ | 0.7 | 2.2 | ... |
| 374 | 312 | British Inv | 370 | ● +3 | 20.9b | 5.6 | ... |
| 83 | 64 | Brunner | 78 | ... | 3.1b | 4.0 | ... |
| 88 | 72 | Charter Agency | 84 | -1 | 3.2b | 3.8 | ... |
| 265 | 225 | Commercial | 265 | ● +2 | 20.0b | 7.5 | ... |
| 178 | 119 | Crescent Japan | 150 | ... | 1.1 | 0.8 | ... |
| 115 | 97 | Derby Inc | 113 | ... | 10.9 | 9.6 | ... |
| 122 | 96 | Do Cap | 113 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 330 | 254 | Drayton Cons | 325 | +2 | 14.3 | 4.4 | ... |
| 148 | 112 | Drayton Far East | 138 | ... | 1.6 | 1.2 | ... |
| 440 | 348 | Drayton Japan | 435 | -4 | 3.8b | 0.8 | ... |
| 328 | 248 | Drayton Premier | 317 | ... | 22.1b | 4.8 | ... |
| 199 | 160 | Dundee Lon | 198 | ● -½ | 7.7 | 4.1 | ... |
| 116 | 89 | Edin Amer Asset | 105 | +1 | 0.6 | 0.6 | ... |
| 121 | 103 | Edinburgh | 120 | +½ | 4.6b | 3.9 | ... |
| 302 | 254 | Electra Gen | 288 | ● -5 | 5.6b | 1.9 | ... |
| 142 | 114 | English Int | 138 | ● +1 | 6.0 | 3.4 | ... |
| 79 | 65 | English Scot | 76 | +1 | 3.6 | 4.7 | ... |
| 112 | 91 | English NY | 112 | +1 | 3.6 | 3.2 | ... |
| 97 | 76 | F & C Alliance | 91 | +1½ | 2.5 | 2.7 | ... |
| 165 | 122 | F&C Pacific | 144 | +1 | 1.8b | 1.2 | ... |
| 245 | 199 | Family | 243 | ... | 11.3b | 4.7 | ... |
| 294 | 242 | First Scot Amer | 283 | ... | 12.9b | 4.4 | ... |
| 185 | 80 | First Un Gen | 85 | ● ... | 8.7 | 9.2 | ... |
| 569 | 415 | Fleming American | 569 | ... | 7.5 | 1.3 | ... |
| 300 | 235 | Fleming Claver | 300 | ... | 12.5 | 4.3 | ... |
| 295 | 233 | Fleming Enterprise | 295 | ... | 12.1 | 4.2 | ... |
| 185 | 76 | Fleming Far East | 89½ | ... | 1.5 | 1.7 | ... |
| 185 | 152 | Fleming Fledgling | 181 | ● ... | 0.9 | 0.2 | ... |
| 560 | 405 | Fleming Japan | 483 | ● ... | 5.7 | 1.2 | ... |
| 152 | 105 | Fleming Mercantile | 128 | ● ... | 4.5 | 3.4 | ... |
| 130 | 100 | Fleming Overseas | 125 | ● +2 | 3.8 | 3.0 | ... |
| 183 | 138 | Fleming Tech | 141 | +1 | 3.3 | 2.3 | ... |
| 334 | 268 | Fleming Universal | 318 | +8 | 7.1b | 2.2 | ... |
| 74 | 59 | For Col | 68 | ... | 2.0b | 2.9 | ... |
| 122 | 91 | GT Capital | 95 | ● ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 185 | 115 | GT Japan | 129 | +1 | 2.0 | 1.6 | ... |
| 141 | 97 | General Funds | 141 | ... | 2.7 | 1.9 | ... |
| 286 | 230 | General Cons | 286 | +1 | 14.9b | 5.0 | ... |
| 125 | 103½ | Glasgow Stock | 115 | +1 | 2.5b | 2.5 | ... |
| 308 | 251 | Globe | 303 | ● +1 | 14.5 | 4.8 | ... |
| 181 | 137 | Greenrider | 154 | ... | 2.3 | 0.9 | ... |
| 276 | 238 | Grantham House | 240 | ... | 8.3 | 2.6 | ... |
| 155 | 118 | Hambros | 146 | ● ... | 4.1 | 3.7 | ... |
| 278 | 226 | Hill (P) | 276 | ● ... | 13.6 | 5.0 | ... |
| 543 | 448 | Invest-in Success | 543 | ... | 7.5 | 1.4 | ... |
| 287 | 227 | Inv Cap | 287 | ... | 6.2b | 2.1 | ... |
| 82 | 65 | Japan Assets | 48½ | ... | 0.1 | 0.2 | ... |
| 161½ | 122 | Lake View | 143 | ... | 3.3b | 2.3 | ... |
| 182 | 132 | Law Debenture | 182 | ... | 8.6b | 4.6 | ... |
| 98 | 84 | Law Investment Sec | 98 | ... | 3.6 | 3.7 | ... |
| 98 | 88 | Lon Trust | 98 | ... | 6.1e | 6.5 | ... |
| 197 | 166 | Merchants | 194 | +1 | 5.4b | 5.2 | ... |
| 174 | 135 | Monks | 169 | ● +1 | 3.4b | 2.1 | ... |
| 136 | 105 | Murray Income | 136 | ● +1 | 7.7b | 5.8 | ... |
| 119 | 85 | Murray Growth | 119 | +3 | 2.0 | 1.7 | ... |
| 143 | 112 | Murray Int | 142 | ... | 6.4e | 4.5 | ... |
| 212 | 168 | Murray Smlr | 212 | ... | 6.7b | 3.2 | ... |
| 288 | 227 | Murray Ventures | 285 | ● ... | 4.2 | 1.5 | ... |
| 408 | 354 | New Court | 398 | ● ... | 20.4 | 5.1 | ... |
| 77 | 61 | New Darien Or | 65 | ... | 8.5 | 8.7 | ... |
| 178 | 135 | Nthrng | 167 | -1 | 5.7 | 4.0 | ... |
| 84 | 63 | Nthrng Inc 83 | 81½ | ... | 4.2b | 5.2 | ... |
| 243 | 192 | Nth Atlantic Sec | 191 | -1 | 1.4e | 0.7 | ... |
| 334 | 264 | Nth Atlantic Sec | 286 | ● ... | 4.9 | 1.7 | ... |
| 128 | 74½ | Nth Sea Assets | 123 | ... | 0.7 | 0.6 | ... |
| 288 | 227 | Nths Amer | 275 | ● -2 | 7.7 | 2.5 | ... |
| 148 | 128 | Quilrich | 146 | ● ... | 4.4 | 3.0 | ... |
| 101 | 82 | Pacific Assets | 98 | +1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 97 | 82 | Do Wrnts | 96 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 46 | 35 | Personal Assets | 39½ | ... | 0.3 | 0.8 | ... |
| 367 | 282 | Raeburn | 358 | +6 | 14.1b | 3.9 | ... |
| 148 | 125 | Rmbr & Mercs | 148 | +1 | 2.6 | 1.8 | ... |
| 244 | 186 | River Plate | 235 | ... | 12.7 | 4.9 | ... |
| 206 | 166 | Robeco | 204 | +1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 188 | 160 | Rolinco | 178 | +1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 288 | 229 | Romney | 279 | +1 | 6.8b | 2.4 | ... |
| 11½ | 10 | Ronanto | 11½ | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 118 | 98 | St Andrews | 117 | ... | 4.0b | 3.4 | ... |
| 231 | 181 | Schlesn | 228 | ● +1 | 6.6 | 2.9 | ... |
| 280 | 211 | Scot American | 280 | ... | 8.4 | 3.0 | ... |
| 92½ | 73 | Scot Eastern | 90 | ... | 2.9b | 3.2 | ... |
| 208 | 165 | Scot Mtge | 208 | ... | 10.7b | 5.1 | ... |
| 264 | 205 | Scot Nat | 261 | ... | 6.9 | 2.6 | ... |
| 405 | 354½ | Scot Mers 'A' | 390 | ● +5 | 25.0 | 6.4 | ... |
| 288 | 238 | Second Alliance | 272 | ... | 23.2 | 4.1 | ... |
| 145 | 108 | Sec Of Scotland | 135 | ● ... | 6.9b | 5.1 | ... |
| 78 | 61 | Smaller Cos | 78 | ... | 1.7b | 2.5 | ... |
| 38½ | 33 | Stewart Enterp | 38 | ... | 0.5 | 1.5 | ... |
| 146 | 116 | Stockholders | 139 | ● +1 | 4.9 | 3.1 | ... |
| 182 | 76 | TR Australasia | 85 | ● +1 | 2.1 | 2.5 | ... |
| 168 | 138 | TR City Of Lon Dist | 166 | ● +1 | 5.8b | 5.5 | 

هكذا من الأصل



TEMPUS

# Bulls and bears have a tiger by the tail

Have equities shot their bolt? Will 1986 see the start of the great bear market? David Robins, of Phillips & Drew, hedging his bets slightly and falling back on historical precedent, points out that 1986 is the Chinese Year of the Tiger. Tiger years are explosive, and the really cataclysmic events of the twentieth century have tended to occur during years associated with this animal, notably the outbreak of the First World War, the general strike, and the Munich crisis.

The tone of most broking forecasts for next year tends to tie in with this kind of generalized expectation. Super-bull Roger Nightingale, for example, at Hoare Govett, sees London equities rising very sharply in the first few months of next year ahead of, but neatly complementary with, the big band, now expected to start in model form during the spring.

The key to the market's gains remains the underlying strength of the real economy. Consumption trends should be good; GDP growth should be good; and the balance of payments figures ought to hold up well. Productivity gains, in particular, could be quite spectacular, expanding by as much as 6 per cent.

Mr Nightingale, an old hand at reading government statistics, blames the inaccurate recording in, and downward bias built into, government figures for any uncertainty about future trends. Assenting to the proposition that government economic numbers conceal far more than they reveal, he points out that officially British productivity is scheduled to improve by only 2 per cent next year.

Good earnings growth should keep the market spinning away quite merrily after peaks in mid-summer for at least a further 12 months in a rerun of the 1972-73 bull market. But the United States remains an incalculable influence. The Americans may well move to deflate in mid-1986, after failing to correct their balance of payments problems via dollar devaluation and the Group of Five agreement. A tighter US fiscal policy would have an immediate impact on world equity earnings prospects.

Ian Weir, Wall Street specialist at Henderson Administration, largely shares this view that markets will start the year well, but perhaps peak later. The present upward surge in Wall Street may be attributable to year-end window-dressing and portfolio switching, but market levels are broadly validated by hopes of continuing ease in the Federal Reserve's monetary stance and better earnings prospects.

The fact, too, that 70 per cent of US equities are still owned by individuals cannot be overlooked. Wall Street's surge will make the dentist from Tulsa feel richer at the start of the year. And the shoeshine boys are still not long of the market.

But the Tiger factor re-appears in the Drexel Burnham Lambert's computerized forecasts for world equities in 1986. Pointing out that all the major world markets hit peaks in November this year, and that the three-year bull phase has generated an average gain since 1982 in 14 world markets of 146 per cent, the analysts at DBL have consulted their dividend discount model for a 1986 print-out preview.

The results are startling. Wall Street appreciates by 17 per cent; Germany and Holland storm ahead by 30 and 38 per cent respectively; while Japan and Britain fall back by 10 and 9 per cent. The application of the Tiger factor is clear – do not get trapped in the wrong market!

## May & Hassell

May & Hassell has come through the trough of the timber cycle and can see better times ahead.

Yesterday it announced profits of just £152,000 before tax for the six months to September – well down on the previous first half but a good turnround from last year's second half £1 million loss.

The company's problem is virtually of its own making. It went into the recession with high borrowings, came out with them higher still and so remains vulnerable to increases in interest rates or a sudden downturn in the market.

At the last year end, borrowings stood at £25 million and they rose to a peak of £32 million in October.

The company has plenty of scope to cut stocks and has some vacant properties on the market, so it is confident it can achieve a substantial fall in borrowings over the next 18 months.

The managememnt promises a better second half and expects to pay a final dividend even though the interim has been passed. With better prospects signalled so blatantly, this might be the time for a bid to emerge.

An American financial operation, Deltec Securities has already built up a 15 per cent stake.

## Albert Fisher

Albert Fisher's strategy is based on one-stop shopping. It aims to bring all the services used by hotels, restaurants, the catering trade and retailers into one group, presumably in the belief that this will provide non-stop growth.

Yesterday it announced the terms of its acquisition of Ziff, a Massachusetts distributor of paper and plastic cups and plates, towels, decorations and cleaning supplies. Because Ziff supplies the same type of customer as the existing American subsidiaries, its purchase should bring the group one step nearer to the new goal. Thre are many more steps to take, however, before it is reached, which probably means that there will be more acquisitions before long.

The terms of the latest purchase stand up on their own. Fisher is paying an initial $15 million (£10.4 million) for a company which made profits of $3.72 million last year. That makes the multiple only eight. It is liable to pay a further $5 million if profits exceed $7.8 million in the year to August, 1987.

Fisher is making most of the initial payment in cash, after its recent rights issue, with 806,000 shares on top. The additional payment is also weighted towards cash. The performance-linked structure of the deal is designed to tie in the current management, and Fisher has used it successfully in other acquisitions. It is meant to ensure that the subsidiaries maintain their growth, enabling the central team to pursue acquisitions.

So far the strategy has worked, and earnings a share are forecast to rise from 8p to about 11p this year, suggesting the shares are trading on only eight times earnings at 143p. This one is for active investors.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

# Lucas shines like a Christmas star

By Derek Pain

**Lucas Industries**, the motor and aircraft accessory manufacturer, was the blue chip "star" of a stock market preoccupied with the Christmas holiday yesterday.

Its shares surged 22p to 480p, a high, making a 54p gain in a week.

The excitement was generated by solid investment buying intermingled with speculative interest.

**Astra Holdings, Britain's second largest firework group which raised £810,000 through a flotation under rule 535 in August, has achieved half-year profits of £121,000 (against £35,000) and seems well on its way to topping its £300,000 profits forecast. The shares, placed at 135p, are now 180p.**

Mr Godfrey Messervy, chairman, forecast last week that the group would make "substantial progress" in its present year.

His optimism, combined with the success of the group's near £90 million rights issue (the rump was placed yesterday), has increased its attraction to institutional investors.

But although Lucas is trading well and the City is lifting its profit forecasts, there is a suspicion in some quarters that it could fall to a predator.

Whispers of share stake building continue to be heard and according to one market source a number of shareholdings just below the 5 per cent level have been built up.

The Lucas advance helped the FT 30-share index to climb 4.9 points to 1,113.5. It had opened with a 1.2-point fall. The more broadly based FT SE share index closed with a 2.1-point gain at 1,388.6.

The P & O shipping group was the other FT index constituent to make an impact. It jumped 12p to 428p when it acquired a holding in European Ferries, as foreshadowed in *The Times* last week.

Euroferries, registering disappointment that a full bid had not been made, fell 7½p to 139p. But Stockley, the property group, where Euroferries has a 29 per cent shareholding, rose 3p to 69p. Stock Conversion, where Stockley is a significant shareholder, was unchanged at 525p.

Three share holdings of Mr Abdul Shamji's Gomba Group were sold by the joint receivers.

Larksilla Investments has acquired 8.1 per cent of Belgrave Holdings, lifting its stake to 29.9 per cent. An unidentified group of investors has taken on Gomba's 18.1 per cent holding in Toye & Co., the makers of civil and military regalia; and its 12 per cent stake in Birmingham Mint has been sold to institutions.

Lonrho, following the disclosure that two American investment funds have built up a near 5 per cent shareholding, was unchanged at 199p.

Beecham Group was again firm, rising 4p to 340p. Speculation persists that it could be the next big target with Unilever one of the candidates to make a move. Reckitt & Colman, where Unilever is also said to be interested continued to advance, reaching 638p, up 13p.

Westland, the helicopter group, gained 3p to 78p as the market awaited news of the rival rescue offer.

The agreed bid for Cole Group from Low & Bonar lifted the shares 40p to 321p. Low & Bonar was down 2p at 326p.

Newcomer Granyte, paced at 56p, achieved a 62p opening level.

**Goldsmiths Group, the jewellery to hotels concern, finished 4p lower at 172p yesterday after scoring an 8p gain at one time. Mr Anthony Gover, creator of the present group, has departed, selling his shares to Mr D. J. Clark and associates. It is expected that Goldsmiths will soon announce a new outside shareholder with more than 10 per cent of the shares.**

C. A. Sperati, the little button and trimming business, jumped 65p to 355p after its doubled profits announced on Friday.

Dividend payment hopes lifted First National Finance Corporation 5p to 160p and Abaco Investments improved 2½p to 27½p on suggestions that it was about to take over an estate agency.

Sunleigh Electronics improved 1½p to 16½p with Cleves Investments, which brought the company to market, continuing to increase its shareholding.

The Cleves involvement is now seen as an attempt to improve Sunleigh's fortunes. The company was a reverse into the old Ceylon and Indian Planters Association and there speculation that Cleves is thinking of reversing another of its clients into the company.

SPP, which came to market last month, gained 2p to 147p when RHP Group announced it owned 12.6 per cent of the shares. The SPP board greeted the RHP interest witha statement that it was determined "to develop the full potential of SPP as an independent entity".

Electricals were brighter. Talk that Racal Electronics is keen to buy CASE Group was good for a 6p gain to 137p.

Electronic Machines was another to improve, up 6p to 44p. STC, expected to be widely tipped as the recovery stock for 1986, advanced 6p to 94p in anticipation.

Bank shares were firm, scoring gains of up to 13p Insurances were mixed in particularly quiet trading.

The takeover stocks were idle. Distillers Co. managed a 5p gain to 483p but Imperial Group and Plessey barely stirred.

Albert Fisher, on its US acquisition, rose 9p to 145p.

Microvitec, on the announcement of redundancies, fell 4p to 18p.

**Pressure is easing on Liggett & Myers, the American cigarette group owned by Grand Metropolitan. Its sales have been hurt by a price war with BAT Industries in the American unbranded market. But BAT has lifted its unbranded prices by up to 8.6 per cent which should allow L & M to improve its margins. Grand Met shares were unchanged at 396p.**

Oils were firm with Charterhouse Petroleum, where Petrofina has made a £145 million bid, rose 2p to 104p on growing appreciation of the value of the cash and share terms.

● Trading on the London Trade Options Market was also quiet ahead of the holiday. All told 7,408 bargains were undertaken. Most active counter was Lonrho which attracted 941 deals. Hanson Trust accounted for 922 bargains and the Distillers Co 820. The Stock Exchange Index was next in line with 690 deals.

## COMPANY NEWS

● **BULA RESOURCES:** The company has raised Irish £2.9 million by a privat placement of new ordinary shares.

● **WILLIAM BOULTON GROUP:** The company is to sell, to DBM Consultans, the Haddenidge Works, Burslem, Stoke, for £180,000. It has also disposed of Manor Engineering to Winemanor Holdings for £250,000 cash.

● **BURGESS PRODUCTS (HOLDINGS):** The company is to sell two offshoots, Burgess Products and Burgess Industrial Silencing to Nelson Industries of Stoughton, Wisconsin, US, at a premium of £120,000 over their combined net asset value at the completion date, which is estimated to be £2 million.

● **OCEONICS GROUP:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 27,982 (34,560), while the pretax loss was 3,267 (2,775 profit). Losses per share were 12.9p (profit, 6.6p)

● **HARVEY AND THOMPSON:** Harvey has conditionally agreed to acquire, from Argyle Trust, the loan book of Goodman and Sterling (Coventry) for £800,000 cash.

● **NORTH BRITISH STEEL GROUP:** For the year to September 28, with figures in £000, the pretax loss was 63 (3,132). The loss per share was 1.2p.

● **PENTOS:** The company is to sell its interest in the manufacturing silversmith business carried out by Barker Ellis Silver in Birmingham. Indusgate will purchase the goodwill and certain plant equipment for £900,000.

● **COATS PATONS:** The company has taken a majority interest in the Jean Muir Group, which has an annual turnover of about £3 million.

● **BAKER PERKINS:** The company is to sell its 39.3 per cent holding in Werner and Pfleiderer, engineers of Stuttgart, West Germany, to Fried Krupp. The price is expected to be £5 million.

● **CRATON LODGE & KNIGHT:** For the year to Sept. 30 with figures in £000, turnover was 2,971 (3,673), while the pretax profit was 501 (485). Earnings per share were 4.83p (4.52p). A final dividend of 1.35p (nil) is being paid, making a total of 1.85p (nil).

● **BRUNNER INVESTMENT TRUST:** For the year to Nov 30, with figures in £000, total income was 3,071 (3,059). Earnings per share were 2.2p (2p). A final dividend of 1.2p (1.1p) is being paid on April 1, making a total of 2.2p (2p).

● **TOPS ESTATES:** For the half-year to Sept. 30, with figures in £000, rental income was 326 (51), while the pretax profit was 34 (29). Earnings per share were 0.25p (0.33p).

● **BRITISH STEAM SPECIALITIES:** The company is to sell its steel stockholding business, A. H. Allen (Steel Stockholders) to Henry Barrett and sons for £1.13 million cash.

● **TELEVISION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL:** The company has bought David Chapman Associates, a producer of television commercials. The price will be 179,883 new TSI shares, with additional shares worth £100,000 if certain profit criteria are met.

● **TR TRUSTEES CORPORATION:** For the half-year to Nov 30, with figures in £000, pretax revenue was 3,302 (2,804). Earnings per share were 2.5p (2.6p). An interim dividend of 1.8p (1.2p) is being paid.

● **KELSEY INDUSTRIES:** For the year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 34,609 (30,831), while the pretax profit was 1,570 (1,333). Earnings per share were 27.5p (17p). A final dividend of 5.5p (5.5p) is being paid, making a total of 8p (8p).

● **MBS TECHNIRENT:** Heads of agreement have been signed with 3i, which is advising on and providing financial assistance for a management buyout worth £4 million. MBS is a subsidiary of Micro Business Systems.

● **GRAINGER TRUST:** The trust is to make an agreed offer, worth £4.5 million, for the Owners of the Middleborough Estate (OME), which owns properties in the north-east.

● **JOHN J. LEES:** For the half-year to Sept. 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 1,819 (1,693), while the pretax profit was 101 (66). Earnings per share were 3.62p (1.92). An interim dividend of 0.5p (0.45p) is being paid.

● **PLYSU:** For 28 weeks to Oct. 12, with figures in £000, turnover was 18,332 (13,559), while the pretax profit was 2,300 (1,900). Earnings per share were 5.7p (4.3p, adjusted). An interim dividend of 0.8p (0.63p, adjusted) is being paid on Jan. 31.

● **BULLOUGH:** The company has acquired the associated companies, Sempol Surfaces and Seamless Surfaces of Brownhills, West Midlands, makers of resins for the flooring and allied trades. Bullough has also disposed of the assets of its loss-making offshoot Elcom Systems.

● **TERN GROUP:** Results for the six months to June 30 (comparisons restated), figures in £000, show sales at 5,816 (4,833), trading loss at 59 (pft 95) and loss per share at 12.78p (1.38p loss).

● **CHARLES BAYNES:** Results for the year to September 30 include a dividend of 1p (1.75p) making 1.55p (2.25p). With figures in £000, turnover was 14,707 (5,663) and trading profit on ordinary activities 867 (777). Pretax loss was 172 (profit 558) and loss per share 0.9p (earnings 4.2p).

● **WOLVERHAMPTON AND DUDLEY BREWERIES:** The chairman, Mr E J Thompson, says in his annual report that site acquisition, development of existing pubs and a strengthening of brands point to better margins and increased volumes in future. The company started the year with product launches for Hanson's Black Country bitter and Harp Extra lager.

● **BULLOUGH:** The company has acquired the associated companies, Sempol Surfaces and Seamless Surfaces of Brownhills, West Midlands, makers of resins for the flooring and allied trades. Bullough has also disposed of the assets of its loss-making offshoot Elcom Systems.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Business Interiors:** Mr Michael Cox has been appointed a director.

**Charles Barker City:** Mr Christopher Dollard and Mr Harry Spencer-Smith have been appointed directors. Mr Bill Grassly has joined as an associate director.

**Atkinson Baldwin and Company:** Mr Jorge Dias is named vice chairman and Mr John McLeaky, managing director.

**Wang (UK):** Mr Alan Davis has been named managing director.

**Clydesdale Bank:** Sir Donald Barron and Lord Sanderson are to be directors.

**Automotive Products:** Mr Peter Crawford is to join the main board as director, UK Automotive Operations, and Mr Tony Inchley as director, international operations.

**Trant Thornton:** Mr Stephen Edmonds (Northampton office); Mr D. R. Ellison (Birmingham); Mr Graham Galloway (Milton Keynes); Mr Peter Gillett (London); Mr Nick Lambert (Newcastle); Mr David McKeith (Manchester); Mr Aidan O'Rourke (Kettering); Mr David Phillips (Cardiff) and Mr Keith Smith (Bedford) are appointed partners.

**Goodhead Print Group:** Mr Eric Rowe has been made group sales and marketing director.

**Morgan Grenfell:** Messrs A. G. Catto, P. W. Evans and J. N. Garrow are to join the board. Mr E. A. Bradman is to join the board of Morgan Grenfell Securities as finance director. Messrs N. R. Dunford, E. M. Gartner, R. P. Morris and G. A. Owen have joined the board of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management.

**Trusthouse Forte:** Mr T. Russell becomes group company secretary.

**National Westminster Bank:** Mr Byron Crittenden has been appointed chief executive of Lombard North Central, succeeding Mr Ron Barnes who retires but becomes deputy chairman.

**The Prestige Group:** Mr Reg Bailey and Mr Barry Jacques join the board.

**Dewey Warren Holdings:** Mr A. Pointing had been appointed to the board.

## RECENT ISSUES

| | Closing Price |
|---|---|
| Abbott Mead Vickers 5p Ord (180) | 208 |
| Ashley (Laura) 5p Ord (135) | 184 |
| Cable & Wireless 25p Ord (287) 300p Pd | 301+1 |
| Chloride Systronics 25p Ord (62a) | 69+2 |
| Chart Foulkes Lynch 5p Ord (86a) | 86 |
| Chetwynd Streets 5p Ord (120) | 128–3 |
| China & Eastn Inv $0.05 (71p) | 68+1 |
| Cranswick Milli 10p Ord (85a) | 97 |
| Cruson 5p Ord (74a) | 82–2 |
| Dialcast 25p Ord (128a) | 135 |
| German Sec Inv £1 Ord (100) 50p Pd | 49+1 |
| Grampian Surfaces 10p Ord (56a) | 63 |
| Inaco 10p Ord (55) | 50 |
| J S Pathology 10p Ord (160a) | 230+4 |
| Jacques Vert 10p Ord (120a) | 125+1 |
| Lexicon Inc $0.01 Open Mkt (115) | 1118–7 |
| Merivale Moore 5p Ord (115) | 123 |
| Monks & Crane 10p Ord (6) | 81 |
| Norank System 5p Ord (90a) | 96–6 |
| S A C International 10p Ord (100a) | 115 |
| SPP 10p Ord (125) | 147+2 |
| Spowdex & Bridge 10p Ord (97a) | 100 |
| Sterling Publishing 5p Ord (57a) | 89+2 |
| Strata Inv (100) | 98–1 |
| Technical Component 25p Ord (130a) | 195 |
| Underwoods 10p Ord (180*) | 187+1 |
| Rights Issues | |
| Eatham (110) Nil Pd | 8 prem–1 |
| Hartwells (68) Nil Pd | ½ prem |
| Mountleigh (475) Nil Pd | 55 prem–5 |

Issue price in parentheses, a Unlisted Securities, *by tender.


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**Base Lending Rates**

| | |
|---|---|
| ABN Bank | 11½% |
| Adam & Company | 11½% |
| BCCI | 11½% |
| Citibank Savings | † 12¾% |
| Consolidated Crds | 11½% |
| Continental Trust | 11½% |
| Co-operative Bank | 11½% |
| C. Hoare & Co | 11½% |
| Lloyds Bank | 11½% |
| Nat Westminster | 11½% |
| Royal Bank Scotland | 11½% |
| TSB | 11½% |
| Citibank NA | 11½% |

† Mortgage Base Rate.


COMPUTER HORIZONS

# Still alive at the end of '85

By Bill Johnstone
*Technology Correspondent*

Few in the computer business will forget the highs and lows of 1985. The home computer market, the mainframe business, the electronics sector and microelectronics manufacture all experienced serious crisis throughout the year.

The uncertainty in the home computer market gave the British a rough ride. Overstocking by retailers and poor response from consumers – compared with anticipated sales – resulted in price-cutting at the beginning of the year. This precipitated a major financial crisis at Acorn and its subsequent sale to the Italian business equipment manufacturers, Olivetti, frightening Sir Clive Sinclair from floating his company on the Unlisted Securities Market at the time he originally intended.

It created such a lack of confidence in the City that microcomputers were deemed to be a bad investment. That lack of confidence was aggravated by the City's reaction to the poor financial results returned by many companies in the information technology sector during the year.

There were personal traumas, too. Sir Clive went through a short-lived marriage with publisher Robert Maxwell, whose belated decision to withdraw from his proposed rescue bid – an injection of about £12 million for the control of Sinclair Research – did little to help the waning confidence of some of the computer group's creditors.

A restructuring of Sinclair Research's management, inspired by the principal creditors – Thorn EMI, AB Electronics, Timex, Barclays and Citibank, which were owed about £15 million between them – stripped Sir Clive, the guru of the home computer market, and still the market leader, of some managerial influence.

A £10 million deal with Dixons, the high street retailer, for the supply of home computers and microvision televisions, gave the Sinclair group a much-needed cash injection and a new lease of life. It was the nearest Sir Clive will ever come to seeing his computer group dissolve and survive.

Chris Currie, a co-founder of the other British home computer group, Acorn (makers of the BBC Microcomputer), also found some of his executive power passing to the new Italian owners, who pumped £20 million into the British computer company for control.

Sir Kenneth Corfield, the chairman of STC, also felt the chill in 1985 as the cold wind blew over the multinationals. STC, the owners of the British computer flagship, ICL, had a disastrous financial year. The City was not pleased, neither were some STC shareholders. Sir Kenneth lost more than a little executive power – he resigned in the face of much criticism.

Curiously, it had been Sir Kenneth's takeover of ICL that had precipitated the departure of Sir Michael Edwardes as chairman last year. The new ICL chairman Robb Wilmot, however, was soon to find other attractions and resigned this year to devote much of his time to setting up a $100 million venture, European Silicon Systems (ES2).

Mr Wilmot was launched into the public eye as managing director of the ailing ICL at the beginning of the decade, hailed as its saviour three years later, and established this year as an international statesman of computers and microchips.

But the uncertainty in the computer industry gave the semiconductor manufacturers major headaches.

The American semiconductor manufacturers, once the market leaders, have been complaining bitterly this year to their government about the Japanese dumping microchips on the US market. This concern was fuelled by a fear that the industry was going through severe recession caused by declining computer production and fierce competition in the semiconductor market.

But the year undoubtedly belonged to Alan Sugar, chairman and chief executive of Amstrad, which prospered amid the competition and uncertainty. His new home computer, made in South Korea, proved the most successful commercially in the British home electronics market in 1985. For £459, he was able to offer a computer terminal, with disc drive and printer – the PCW-8256.

It was launched in August but by last week 200,000 had been sold. He was to complete his triumphant year by concluding an agreement with Sears World Trade of the US for the supply of 10,000 of his new machines.

The computer industry is still very much alive.


# COMPUTER APPOINTMENTS

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| 4 | Cater Allen | |
| 5 | Midland | |
| 6 | First Nat Finance | |
| 7 | King & Shaxson | |
| 8 | Smith St Aubyn | |
| 9 | Stand Chart | |
| 10 | Clive | |
| | INDUSTRIALS A-D | |
| 11 | Assoc Heat | |
| 12 | Birmingham Mint | |
| 13 | Bowater | |
| 14 | Clayton Son | |
| 15 | AGB Research | |
| 16 | Crown House | |
| 17 | Brdon | |
| 18 | Blackwood Hodge | |
| 19 | Ashley | |
| 20 | Diploma | |
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| 21 | Tunstall Telecom | |
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| 33 | Gent SR | |
| 34 | House Of Lerose | |
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| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | Weekly Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |

## BRITISH FUNDS

1985 High Low Stock — Price — Ch'ge — Int. only Red. yld % — Gross red. yld %

**SHORTS (Under Five Years)**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 101 34 | 98 28 | Exch | 11¾% | 1986 | 99.87 | 11.768 | 11.792 |
| 99¾ | 97¼ | Treas C | 10% | 1986 | 99⅝ | 10.052 | 11.854 |
| 101⅛ | 97¼ | Treas | 3% | 1986 | 97½ | 3.080 | 10.885 |
| 103⅛ | 97¼ | Exch C | 10¾% | 1986 | 99⅝ | 10.548 | 11.686 |
| 101⅜ | 98¼ | Treas | 12% | 1986 | 100¼ | 11.981 | 11.818 |
| 99¾ | 94¾ | Treas | 8¾% | 1984-86 | 99⅛ | 8.824 | 11.458 |
| 103⅛ | 101¼ | Exch | 14% | 1986 | 101⅝ | 13.755 | 11.684 |
| 101⅛ | 97¼ | Treas | 3% | 1986 | 97⅝ | 2.821 | 7.913 |
| 103⅛ | 101¼ | Exch | 14% | 1987 | 101⅝ | 13.804 | 11.808 |
| 99⅝ | 96¼ | Treas C | 10¼% | 1987 | 98⅞ | 10.463 | 11.815 |
| 100⅜ | 96¼ | Exch | 10¼% | 1987 | 98⅝ | 10.627 | 11.473 |
| 100⅜ | 96¼ | Exch | 10¼% | 1987 | 98⅝ | 10.627 | 11.443 |
| 99⅝ | 96¼ | Treas | 10% | 1987-89 | 98⅝ | 10.191 | 11.435 |
| 99⅝ | 93¼ | Treas | 3% | 1987 | 96⅝ | 3.253 | 8.489 |
| 102⅝ | 96¼ | Treas | 12% | 1987 | 101⅝ | 11.981 | 11.387 |
| 99⅝ | 93¼ | Treas | 3% | 1985-88 | 96⅝ | 3.253 | 11.121 |
| 100⅜ | 94¼ | Exch | 10¼% | 1988 | 98⅝ | 10.663 | 11.251 |
| 99⅝ | 93¼ | Treas C | 9½% | 1988-90 | 96⅝ | 10.087 | 11.235 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1979-84 | 95⅝ | 3.155 | 8.239 |
| 97⅜ | 91¼ | Treas | 9½% | 1988 | 95⅝ | 9.944 | 11.371 |
| 101⅜ | 96¼ | Treas | 11¾% | 1988 | 100⅝ | 11.446 | 11.280 |
| 99⅝ | 89¼ | Treas C | 9% | 1988 | 95⅝ | 9.967 | 11.253 |
| 94¾ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1988 | 94⅝ | 3.566 | 8.497 |
| 99⅝ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 1987-92 | 97⅝ | 10.719 | 11.224 |
| 98⅜ | 90¼ | Exch | 10¼% | 1989 | 97⅝ | 10.497 | 11.338 |
| 101⅜ | 94¼ | Exch | 11¾% | 1989 | 99⅝ | 11.088 | 11.248 |
| 98⅜ | 74¼ | Treas | 5% | 1986-89 | 95⅝ | 5.265 | 9.310 |
| 100⅜ | 94¼ | Exch C | 10¼% | 1990 | 97⅝ | 10.499 | 11.206 |
| 102⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 13% | 1990 | 100⅝ | 12.279 | 11.139 |
| 101⅜ | 94¼ | Exch | 11¾% | 1990 | 99⅝ | 11.676 | 11.184 |
| 139 | 129¼ | Exch | 12¼% | 1990 | 104⅞ | 11.589 | 11.204 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1987-90 | 91⅝ | 3.998 | 8.236 |
| 97⅜ | 86¼ | Treas | 8¾% | 1987-90 | 91⅝ | 9.019 | 10.889 |
| 97 | 91 | Treas C | 10% | 1990 | 95⅝ | 10.486 | 11.206 |

**FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 103⅜ | 96¼ | Treas | 11¾% | 1991 | 100⅝ | 11.469 | 11.106 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1991 | 91⅝ | 3.566 | 8.497 |
| 103⅜ | 96¼ | Exch | 11¾% | 1991 | 100⅝ | 11.469 | 11.106 |
| 100⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 1992 | 97⅝ | 10.719 | 11.224 |
| 103⅜ | 96¼ | Exch | 11¾% | 1992 | 100⅝ | 11.469 | 11.106 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 1992 | 106⅝ | 11.981 | 11.267 |
| 101⅜ | 94¼ | Exch | 11¾% | 1993 | 99⅝ | 11.446 | 11.162 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 1993 | 106⅝ | 11.642 | 11.049 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1993 | 91⅝ | 3.566 | 8.497 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 1993 | 97⅝ | 10.719 | 11.224 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 1994 | 106⅝ | 12.265 | 11.058 |
| 101⅜ | 94¼ | Exch | 11¾% | 1994 | 99⅝ | 12.014 | 11.178 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Exch | 12% | 1994 | 106⅝ | 11.636 | 11.136 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1994 | 91⅝ | 3.566 | 8.497 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 1995 | 106⅝ | 11.443 | 11.053 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1990-95 | 90⅝ | 4.314 | 7.617 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 1995 | 97⅝ | 10.719 | 10.991 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1995-98 | 91⅝ | 3.566 | 8.497 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 1996 | 97⅝ | 10.719 | 11.224 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 1996 | 106⅝ | 12.265 | 11.058 |
| 101⅜ | 94¼ | Exch | 11¾% | 1996 | 99⅝ | 12.014 | 11.178 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Exch | 12% | 1996 | 106⅝ | 11.636 | 11.136 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1996 | 91⅝ | 3.566 | 8.497 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 1997 | 106⅝ | 11.443 | 11.053 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1995-97 | 90⅝ | 4.314 | 7.617 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 1997 | 97⅝ | 10.719 | 10.991 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1995-98 | 91⅝ | 3.566 | 8.497 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 1998 | 97⅝ | 10.719 | 11.224 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 1998 | 106⅝ | 12.265 | 11.058 |
| 101⅜ | 94¼ | Exch | 11¾% | 1998 | 99⅝ | 12.014 | 11.178 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Exch | 12% | 1998 | 106⅝ | 11.636 | 11.136 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1998 | 91⅝ | 3.566 | 8.497 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 1999 | 106⅝ | 11.443 | 11.053 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1999 | 91⅝ | 3.566 | 8.497 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 1999 | 97⅝ | 10.719 | 11.224 |
| 98⅜ | 90¼ | Exch | 10¼% | 1999 | 97⅝ | 10.497 | 11.338 |
| 101⅜ | 94¼ | Exch | 11¾% | 1999 | 99⅝ | 11.088 | 11.248 |
| 98⅜ | 74¼ | Treas | 5% | 1986-99 | 95⅝ | 5.265 | 9.310 |
| 100⅜ | 94¼ | Exch C | 10¼% | 1999 | 97⅝ | 10.499 | 11.206 |
| 102⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 13% | 1990 | 100⅝ | 12.279 | 11.139 |
| 101⅜ | 94¼ | Exch | 11¾% | 1990 | 99⅝ | 11.676 | 11.184 |
| 139 | 129¼ | Exch | 12¼% | 1990 | 104⅞ | 11.589 | 11.204 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 1987-90 | 91⅝ | 3.998 | 8.236 |
| 97⅜ | 86¼ | Treas | 8¾% | 1987-90 | 91⅝ | 9.019 | 10.889 |
| 97 | 91 | Treas C | 10% | 1990 | 95⅝ | 10.486 | 11.206 |

**OVER FIFTEEN YEARS**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 2001 | 97⅝ | 10.420 | 10.539 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 2001-04 | 106⅝ | 11.588 | 11.336 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 2002 | 91⅝ | 11.075 | 10.797 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 2003-05 | 97⅝ | 10.401 | 10.497 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 2003-05 | 106⅝ | 11.354 | 11.392 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 2004 | 90⅝ | 11.381 | 10.857 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 2004-06 | 97⅝ | 10.773 | 10.686 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 2005 | 106⅝ | 10.357 | 10.427 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 2006 | 91⅝ | 10.390 | 10.370 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 2006-08 | 97⅝ | 10.285 | 10.804 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 2007-09 | 106⅝ | 10.955 | 10.977 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 2008 | 91⅝ | 9.859 | 10.177 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 2008-12 | 97⅝ | 10.356 | 10.599 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 2013-17 | 106⅝ | 10.356 | 10.599 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 2010 | 91⅝ | 9.186 | 9.742 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 2011-14 | 97⅝ | 9.932 | 9.974 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 2013-15 | 106⅝ | 10.356 | 10.283 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 2012-15 | 91⅝ | 9.186 | 9.742 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 2012-15 | 97⅝ | 9.932 | 9.974 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 2013-17 | 106⅝ | 10.356 | 10.283 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 2020 | 91⅝ | 9.186 | 9.742 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 2020-24 | 97⅝ | 9.932 | 9.974 |
| 114⅜ | 99¼ | Treas | 12% | 2024 | 106⅝ | 10.356 | 10.283 |
| 97⅜ | 79¼ | Treas | 3% | 2024 | 91⅝ | 9.186 | 9.742 |
| 103⅜ | 93¼ | Treas | 10% | 2024

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FOOTBALL: HUTCHISON MADE ACTING MANAGER AT THREATENED WELSH CLUB

# Swansea given temporary reprieve and will play on Boxing Day

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Swansea City were yesterday granted a merciful reprieve. The third division club will remain on the scaffold for another three weeks, but the noose that had been tied around their necks was loosened by a High Court judge, who agreed to an application for a stay of execution until January 13.

This means that the club can play the local derby at Cardiff City on Boxing Day and four other fixtures. John Bond, the manager, and his assistant have been dismissed by the Official Receiver, so Tommy Hutchison has been invited to act as the player-manager and Jimmy Rimmer the player-coach.

Swansea were wound up last Friday with debts of some £1.5 million and owing another £146,000 to the Inland Revenue and the Customs and Excise. But a group of former club directors, after spending the weekend gathering financial support, joined the legal advisers yesterday morning and took their case to Mr Justice Scott.

His favourable decision is conditional on "indemnities from all the directors of the company, except one, and on certain directors making money immediately available to fund the company's operations".

Swansea's chartered accountant, Jeffrey Payne, has been appointed the club's business manager under the supervision of the Official Receiver.

Robert Nettleship, a solicitor representing the group which includes Peter Howard, Harry Hyde, Mel Nurse and Dave Savage, as well as Doug Sharpe, Winston Rees and Philip Owen, said: "The directors are grateful to the court and to the Official Receiver for being allowed this period in which proposals may be formulated and considered for the continuity of League Football in Swansea."

The reprieve must still be officially accepted by the League's Management Committee, but that should be a formality. Andy Williamson, a League spokesman, said: "It is unlikely that we will prejudice their position in the short term. They are likely to be given leave to carry on until such time as their future has been clarified."

He added that: "They clearly intend to restructure the club in the fashion of Bradford City, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Charlton Athletic, who were in similar circumstances." Now Swansea are the latest to join the ever-growing list of those that have sat in "death row" before hearing that they have been spared, however temporarily.

Nurse, a centre half, who appeared in Swansea's all white strip on 256 occasions and who won 12 Welsh caps, greeted the news with understandable elation. "This is absolutely fabulous. It is a decision that will delight not only everybody in Swansea but everybody in football as a whole."

Swansea's immediate concern is the Christmas fixture with Cardiff. The initial duty of Hutchison, aged 38, the former Manchester City forward, and Rimmer, aged 37, the former Aston Villa goalkeeper, was to contact the players, who thought their Swansea careers were over, to report for training at 10 o'clock this morning. Next Saturday Swansea will be at Plymouth Argyle and on New Year's Day they entertain Bournemouth.

Their other fixtures will be at Bury on January 4, at home to Blackpool on January 11. It is after that meeting that their existence, which has lasted for 85 years, is to be confirmed.

# Hughes close to becoming the latest villain of the peace

By Stuart Jones

A record number of professional footballers will be putting their feet up and resting over the festive period. Managers have not been touched by the holiday spirit and given time off to their unwanted playing staff. Neither are injuries to blame, nor is the weather, though Boxing Day is expected to bring cold and possibly icy conditions.

The responsibility lies between the alarming amount of miscreants and the men who have found them guilty, referees. A total of 120 players have been sent off so far this season and 26 will miss their club's Boxing Day fixture through suspension.

As another six were dismissed last weekend, even more may be ruled out of the New Year programme.

It is becoming the season of illwill on the pitch, though none of the championship leaders will be affected on December 26.

Manchester United, with their absurdly heavy casualty list, could scarcely afford to be without any of their healthy representatives but Hughes, for one, has amassed enough disciplinary points to be on the verge of joining his idle colleagues.

United, ten points clear at the start of November still lead the first division by four, but have won only two of their last seven games. They visit Everton, who opened the season by beating them at Wembley in the Charity Shield and have since twice defeated them in the Screen Sports Super Cup.

In their last meeting at Goodison Park three weeks ago Hughes was booked. Stapleton's fate was even worse. Acting as an emergency centre half he scored the lone goal – for Everton. Hogg, more accustomed to defensive duties, is expected to return to fill the role and Albiston should also return at fullback.

Although Everton have failed to win a home League game since overwhelming Arsenal 6-1 six weeks ago, United are in danger of looking at the field from an unfamiliar position by the turn of the year. Still without two of their captains, the injured Robson and Moran, they must travel to Newcastle United next Saturday.

Liverpool are also away twice. Their first holiday fixture is at Manchester City who may introduce Paul Moulden in attack if Lillis is unfit. If the 18-year-old striker plays, Liverpool must hope that he does not do to them what Quinn, aged 19, accomplished for Arsenal in their 2-0 win at Highbury 10 days ago, when he scored the second goal.

At junior level Moulden once claimed 250 goals in a season. Liverpool who should be at full strength at Maine Road make the awkward journey to Nottingham Forest at the end of the week.

Chelsea will stay at home to promote London's championship challenge with West Ham United, who are lying with Liverpool a point above them. Hazard, who scored three times for the reserves last Saturday could be recalled by Chelsea, who are hosts for the derbies against Queen's Park Rangers on Boxing Day and Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday.

West Ham will be strengthened by the return of Devonshire and weakened by the absence of Ward at White Hart Lane. Tottenham in turn, are without Roberts, one of the victims of suspension, in defence but they should be armed with their England pair Hoddle and Waddle in attack.

Three of Arsenal's England representatives, Woodcock, Anderson and Williams, are likely to join the spectators at Vicarage Road on Boxing Day even though Woodcock is fit after injury and Williams is available following suspension. Since their understudies Quinn, Caesar and Keown have contributed to the recent victories over Liverpool and United, Don Howe will probably again choose youth over experience against Watford.

Watson, another of Bobby Robson's international choices may not be in action for Norwich City, the new leaders of the second division. He limped away rom their 6-1 victory over Millwall last Saturda and is considered doubtful for their game against Charlton Athletic, their visitors who are only two points behind them.

## Wrexham play in morning

Wrexham will start their Boxing Day home game against Preston North End at 11am because emergency lighting in the main stand has not been installed in time to comply with safety regulations.

There is also a possibility that Wrexham will apply for an early kick-off of the home game against Scunthorpe United on Saturday, although Scunthorpe officials are objecting to the extra expense of an overnight stay.

Boxing Day fixtures, page 20

## BOXING DAY TEAM NEWS

**Birmingham (20) v Nottm F (11)**
The good news for Birmingham is that Hopkins is available after completing a two-match suspension and Armstrong is expected to recover from a hamstring injury which has kept him out for two weeks; the bad news is that Clarke and Geddis are doubtful.

**Chelsea (4) v QP Rngers (14)**
Chelsea's only doubt is their midfield player, Bumstead, who had five stitches inserted in a gashed shin after Saturday's 2-1 victory at Birmingham; Hazard may return.

**Coventry (15) v Ipswich (21)**
D'Avray, the Ipswich forward who missed Saturday's defeat at Tottenham through injury, should be back. His probable return will be offset by the absence of Atkins, who is suffering from a stress fracture and needs rest. Zondervan, who played with a broken toe at Spurs, is extremely doubtful.

**Everton (6) v Man Utd (1).**
Stevens is expected to be fit for Everton, despite receiving a toe injury in Saturday's win at Coventry. Albiston could return for United, allowing their recent signing, Gibson, to move into midfield. Hogg will probably be recalled to central defence. The youngsters, Blackmore and Garton, are likely to step down.

**Man City (16) v Liverpool (2)**
Manchester City could select an untried teenager to lead their attack. Moulden, aged 18, stands by in case Lillis fails to recover from a thigh strain. Molby, who missed Liverpool's game on Saturday because of a mouth infection, trained yesterday and should be available. Johnston and Nicol are expected to shake off minor injuries.

**Oxford (19) v Southampton (13)**
Oxford's supporters may have a new player to cheer against Southampton, for the manager, Maurice Evans, hopes to pay a club record fee of £200,000 for a forward in time for the Boxing Day match. Oxford desperately need reinforcements in attack as Aldridge is their only forward free from injury. There is good news about Oxford's defender, Langan, who has recovered from an abdominal injury.

**Sheff Wed (5) v Newcastle (9)**
Megson, who is back at Hillsborough on loan after 18 months away, will line up against his former colleagues, Megson, who scored in Wednesday's victory against Manchester City on Saturday, said: "I want to play in every game. It doesn't matter if it is against Newcastle." Wednesday will prepare for this fixture by spending Christmas Day at home relaxing with their families.

**Tottenham (10) v West Ham (3)**
Roberts will be a Tottenham absentee as he starts a two-match ban but Hoddle and Waddle should be fit. Fears that Devonshire, of West Ham, had broken his jaw during Saturday's game at Luton were dispelled yesterday and he has been told that he can continue playing. However, Ward, an ever-present, is doubtful with a calf injury.

**Watford (12) v Arsenal (7)**
Woodcock is fit after a thigh injury and Williams is available again after suspension but they are unlikely to be picked by Arsenal's manager, Don Howe, who as seen their replacements cope so well. Anderson is a definite non-starter as he is still suspended. Mariner will play in the reserves at Southampton on January 4, his first game since October after an ankle operation.

# Pelé points to flaw in Brazil

WORLD FOOTBALL
Brian Glanville

Bookmakers usually know what they are doing, but why have they made Brazil favourites for the 1986 World Cup? Could it be on any other than historical grounds? True, Algeria, Spain and Northern Ireland are not the most alarming of opponents, but as Zico himself says, "We are clearly lagging behind everyone else. We have neither a team nor a manager."

Still more critical is Pelé hero of the last World Cup to be played in Mexico. "The lack of a team manager shows the Brazilian Football Confederation has little respect for the public. How can we plan friendlies and pre-World Cup tours if we haven't a manager? It's truly absurd."

On the other hand, Pelé is happy about the draw. "God has begun to help Brazil. Spain are the only team in the group which could cause any problems. They mark well and run well."

Spain themselves had an encouraging 2-0 home win in their friendly against Bulgaria: one of which also encouraged Italy, who play Bulgaria in their opening World Cup match. Two new talents have emerged recently in the Spanish team; Quique Setien, an elegant midfield player who joined Atletico Madrid this season, and the slight, small, quick young Sporting Gijon winger, Eloy. "The best forward in Spain," was how Espanol's gifted young manager Javier Azkargorta, described him to me after their teams played this season in Barcelona, where on Sunday Espanol gallantly gained a draw in the derby game.

Yet perhaps the best forward in Spain is still the 33-year-old Carlos Santillana, Spain's centre-forward in the 1984 European Championship final and hero of Real Madrid's amazing 4-0 UEFA Cup win in the Bernabeu against Borussia Mönchengladbach. Santillana said afterwards that he still felt he should be an automatic choice for club and country; the trouble was that if he weren't picked for Real, then he could scarcely be picked for Spain.

With the brilliant young Butragueño – back in form at last – Mexico's expensive dentist Hugo Sanchez and Argentina's highly effective Valdoano as his rivals for the two forward roles, it's not easy for Santillana to stay in the side.

For Scotland, as the Italian championship packs up for Christmas week, the good news is that the turn of the year finds Graeme Someas in his best form so far.

Only a few weeks ago, the local paper said that it did not care when he went home, and Trevor Francis could go with him. Francis, like Santillana in Madrid, is finding it hard to get into the first team these days, such is the abundance of forwards and the manager, Berselliní's, evident reluctance to choose him.

Gordon Cowans has also had difficulty in making the team at Bari, but in his case it has been injury which has kept him out for much of the season. He celebrated his recent return on Sunday by scoring the only goal in the vital relegation match against Udinese, his first League goal since he joined Bari this summer.

In Brazil, Sao Paolo have finally decided that they need Paolo Roberto Falcao. Having spent weeks on the bench, Falcao has now installed himself as a regular, successful member of the midfield, and finally made his peace with the manager, Cilinho, who now swears by him. When Sao Paolo beat Portuguesa 3–1 in the play-offs for the Sao Paolo Championship this month, Falcao was the best player on the field.

Will South Korea bring Cha Boom Kun back from West Germany? He's yet another splendid veteran, 32-years-old, now with his third West German club in Bayer Leverkusen, after eight years in the Bundesliga. A winger of great skill and pace who has often been badly maltreated in that violent League, Cha Boom, as he is known, played no part in South Korea's qualification.

But with over 200 appearances and some 80 goals in the Bundesliga, he is clearly not a player to be lightly ignored.

*Brian Glanville is Football Correspondent of the Sunday Times.*

# Robins wants no more part in club he built up

Derrick Robins, the millionaire who took Coventry from the third division to the first while he was chairman, said yesterday that he wanted to sever his links with the club. Robins, aged 71 and living in South Africa, is still the life president.

He has publicly expressed disapproval over Coventry's proposal to wipe out debts by trying to raise £400,000 through a share issue. He wants to sell his 20 per cent shareholding.

● Everton are to keep their FA Cup date with Exeter City at 2.30 on Sunday, January 5, despite the live screening of the third round tie between Charlton Athletic and West Ham United on the same day. The Everton secretary, Jim Greenwood, said: "We ruled out a morning kick-off because we have a church adjacent to Goodison Park and we did not wish to disturb people attending Sunday morning services. As well as that, Exeter would have had problems in getting their supporters up here for an earlier start."

# Giles off list

Johnny Giles, the former Republic of Ireland manager, does not want to be considered for the job again. He was on the short list but said yesterday: "I have spoken to the president of F.I.A. and have told him to withdraw my name from the list of candidates."

WAITERS CAN BE THE WORST WHEN THE AUTOGRAPH HUNTERS STRIKE



All smiles at Crystal Palace, but Aouita (left) and Cram often find popularity no laughing matter (Photo: Chris Cole)

# Cram and Aouita run into the problem of fame

When we idly imagine ourselves in the running shoes of our athletic heroes, it is usually to experience the vicarious pleasure of the solo charge through the tape, followed by the award ceremonies and the acclaim. We rarely contemplate that there might be the occasional drawback to such success but the other side of the gold medal is often far less burnished.

Consider Steve Cram, on the trials of going out to buy a newspaper. "It almost gets to be a fear. You can get nervous about just popping down to the corner shop, thinking that someone's going to recognize you. For some reason, people think they can come up and talk to you if you're on your own.

"Some are really polite. In restaurants, for example, they'll wait for you to finish your meal before asking for an autograph. But others won't, and waiters can be the worst. They serve your meal and shove some paper down beside it, and say, 'Will you sign 10 of these?'."

## 'I just can't go out in daylight any more'

But Britain has its fair share of international sporting heroes, which probably mitigates the attention that Cram receives. Consider the case of his great rival, Said Aouita, whose fame in Morocco is probably only exceeded by that of the king, Hassan II. "It's impossible, I just can't go out in daylight any more," Aouita declares. "I get out of my car, and I'm mobbed straightaway. I have to wait until about 11 o'clock, or midnight before I can go out to a restaurant or a discotheque, and then only with friends".

But even during a recent late night meal in Casablanca Aouita was first approached by the restaurant manager and waiters then a steady stream of clients thrusting paper and pencil at him throughout the meal. Evem worse, the car-park attendant had told a posse of passing youths of the athlete's presence inside. On his departure, one of them asked for a half-page imprecation to himself, beginning, 'Prepare your future, Hamid,' to be copied out before an autograph was appended. Aouita shook his head in disbelief at this request, but complied nevertheless.

Such attention is one of the reasons why Aouita chooses to live aborad, in Italy. But, as one Moroccan journalist emphasized: "We don't care where he lives, as long as he wears the Moroccan vest". Whithin two years, the wearing of that vest, while winning an Olypic gold medal, and setting two world records has made the athlete a national institution.

The king confessed the final imprimatur to the unofficial, yet universal nickname, the 'Aouita', given to the new rapide rain between Rabat and Casablanca, when he referred to the train in broadcast. Hassan II, to whom Aouita pays careful and consistent hommage, also gave him the house in the selct suburb of Casablanca, where he spent last month with his young wife, Khadiga.

The message has percolated all the way down from the throne. When the two of us took a jog through a shanty town outside the city walls of Rabat, we were joined by a score of schoolchildren, some as young as seven, who followed for almost a kilometre chanting, "Aouita, Aouita, Aouita", all the way.

The British are far more ambivalent about their sporting heroes, especially if they're within spitting distance. As Cram says: "You get two approaches. You get the folks who think you're great, and can do no wrong, or you get the ones who go the other way, and go completely over the top."

Unfortunately, the local police seem to come into this category. A minor car accident, which Cram was involved in recently, became a *cause célèbre* on Tyneside. "I think on that occasion, they threw the book at me. It was my own fault. I'm not arguing with that. But I don't want to go through life trying to be whiter than white, just to make sure that I don't get into trouble."

## Five world records between them

For once, Cram might have wished himself in Aouita's shoes. After our interview recently, Aouita was driving me back to Casablanca station to catch 'his' train back to Rabat. Going considerably over the speed limit, he was flagged down.

Employing the lazy stroll, dedicated to induce maximum apprehension in the miscreant, the *gendarme* who was reaching for his notebook snapped his arm in mid-movement to a smart salute when he recognized his victim. He quickly apologized, shook our hands, and strode off. Aouita had the good grace to be embarrassed by this display.

With the Commonwealth Games and European Championships dominating Cram's 1986 schedule, the chances of he and Aouita meeting next summer are slim – Aouita, as a Moroccan, does not qualify for either meeting. However, at the end of last season, honours were virtually even despite injuries to both, caused by racing flat out every few days, they collected five world records between them. Cram had the competitive edge, beating Aouita by four hundredths of a second, when he broke Steve Ovett's world 1,500 metres record in Nice on July 16.

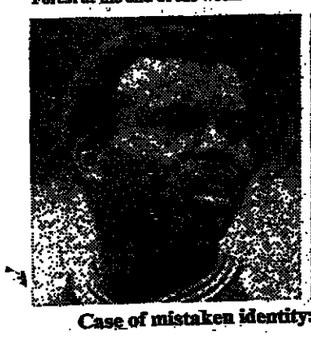
In Oslo on July 27, Cram took the mile record from Sebastian Coe, while Aouita relieved an absent David Moorcroft of the 5,000 metres record. Cram then broke the 2,000 metres record, but Aouita replied by taking the 1,500 metres, thus ending up with the records for the Olympic distances.

Although they were born within three weeks of each other in late 1960, have sports related degrees, and both married in December 1983, their personalities are different. Cram is quieter, thoughtful and reticent, while Aouita is expansive, talkative and impulsive.

When Cram talks about a possible tilt at the Commonwealth 800 metres title next summer, as a prelude to defending two of his 1,500 metres titles, you know that he has given it a lot of careful thought. "If selection was straightforward, I'd do it. The problem is that the 800 metres always precedes the 1,500

He certainly has the credentials, after beating Olympic champion Joaquim Cruz with 1min 42.88 sec in Zurich last August. But Aouita, despite being more a 1,500/5,000 metres type, bolsters a reputation either for braggadocio or a belief in his own capabilities when he casually remarks: "I think I can do under 1.41 for 800 metres next summer." His best is 1.44.38, and Coe's world record is 1.41.73.

**Pat Butcher**





Case of mistaken identity: Wallace (left) and Case

# Two men who muddled the man in the middle

Jimmy Case paid a heavy price yesterday for clearing his Southampton colleague Danny Wallace when the Football Association investigated a case of mistaken identity at Newcastle on December 14. Wallace insisted he had not committed the foul which earned him the first of two bookings that had him sent off.

An FA commission headed by the disciplinary chairman, Les Mackay, agreed with him, and transferred the booking to Case – which carried him over 21 points for the season and into a two-match ban.

Wallace said: "I'm happy for myself but not too pleased for Jimmy. It was the first sending off of my career and I am pleased to get my unblemished record back." Case, who now misses the trip to West Ham on Saturday and the home match against West Bromwich Albion on New Year's day, said: "It's just one of those things. It had to be sorted out."

The puzzling aspect was that Wallace is black and Case is white. Southampton's manager, Chris Nicholl, had some sympathy for the referee, David Allison, saying: "The two players were very close together when it happened."

Nicholl played the club's recording of the match to the commission and said afterwards: "The actual film was not very clear but it was good enough to convince them. We feel we had a fair hearing. I think we have done right to get at the truth. We had to clear it up for Danny's sake and the referee agreed with us in the end."

# FA Trophy

REVISED SECOND ROUND DRAW: Altrincham v Bangor or Willenhall; Bishop's Stortford v Northwich; Burton v Bromsgrove or Shepshed; Corby v Kidderminster; Crawley v Wycombe; Dagenham v Cheltenham; Dartford v South Bank or Whitby; Dulwich Hamlet or Windsor and Eton v Runcorn; Enfield v Maidstone; Grays v Chelmsford; Hyde or Leek v Chorley; Lymn Bank or Macclesfield; Scarborough v Southport; Slough v Kettering; Stafford v Bishop Auckland; Wealdstone v Bedworth or Frickley; Worthing v Bridgend or Harrow. Ties to be played on Jan 18.

● Baghdad (Reuter) – Iraq will play Arsenal and Everton here as part of their build-up to the World Cup finals in Mexico. Everton play two games on January 13 and 15.

BELGIAN: Ghent 3, Lierse 0; Charleroi 0, Beerschot 1; Mechelen 0, Standard Liege 0; Beveren 2, Lokeren 2; Cercle Bruges 7, Waregen 2; Molenbeek 0, Waterschei 0; F C Liege 0, Anderlecht 0; Kortrijk 0, Club Bruges 1; Antwerp 3, Gerlang 1. Leading positions: 1, Club Bruges, 31 pts; 2, Anderlecht, 28; 3, Ghent, 24.

BULGARIAN: Sliven 2, Akademik Sofia 0; Slavia Sofia 1, Lokomotiv Sofia 0; Vratsa 6, Beroe 1; Spartak Pleven 1, Etar 2; Chemo More 7, Vratsa 0; Pirin 1, Spartak Varna 1; Dounav 0, Lokomotiv Plovdiv 3; Sredets 5, Vitosha 1. Leading positions: 1, Beroe, 24 pts; 2, Trakia, 23; 3, Sliven, 22.

DUTCH: Excelsior Rotterdam 2, Twente Enschede 2; MVV Maastricht 1, Ajax Amsterdam 4; AZ '67 Alkmaar 1, Fortuna Sittard 1; PSV Eindhoven 2, Den Bosch 1; Groningen 3, Haarlem 0; VVV Venlo 1, Utrecht 0; Heracles Almelo 2, Feyenoord Rotterdam 6; Roda JC Kerkrade 2, GA Eagles Deventer 0; Sparta Rotterdam 5, NEC Nijmegen 2. Leading positions: 1, PSV Eindoven, 35 pts; 2, Ajax Amsterdam, 26; 3, Feyenoord Rotterdam, 26.

FRENCH: Toulon 1, Toulouse 1; Monaco 2, Bastia 1; Brest 1, Le Havre 1; Paris SG 4, Auxerre 0; Lens 2, Nice 0; Rennes 0, Bordeaux 0; Nantes 5, Lille 1; Nancy 0, Marseilles 2; Strasbourg 0, Metz 0; Sochaux 1, Laval 0. Leading positions: 1, Paris SG 41 pts; 2, Nantes 35; 3, Bordeaux 34.

ITALIAN: Atlanta 1, Milan 1; Bari 1, Udinese 0; Fiorentina 1, Pisa 1; Internazionale 1, Sampdoria 0; Juventus 4, Lecce 0; Napoli 1, Avellino 0; Roma 0, Como 0; Verona 1, Torino 0. Leading positions: 1, Juventus 24 pts; 2, Napoli 20; 3, Internazionale 16.

GREEK: Panionios 1, Panathinaikos 1; AEK 3, Panserraikos 0; Aris 2, Yannina 2; Apolon Athens 0, Iraklis 0; PAOK 1, Larisa 1; Ethnikos 0, Panachaiki 0; Doxa 0, OFI 2. Leading positions: 1, Panathinaikos 21; 2, Aris 20; 3, AEK 19.

PORTUGUESE: Sporting 0, Benfica 0; Porto 5, Setubal 0; Portimonense 1, Chaves 0; Boavista 2, Covilha 1; Braga 1, Aves 1; Academica 1, Penafiel 0; Belenenses 2, Salgueiros 1; Maritimo 0, Guimaraes 3. Leading positions: 1, Benfica, 22pts; 2, Sporting, 22; 3, Porto, 22.

SPANISH: Celta 1, Sporting 1; Real Madrid 1, Real Sociedad 0; Real Valladolid 4, Real Betis 2; Cadiz 2, Valencia 3; Barcelona 0, Espanol 0; Hercules 1, Racing 0; Sevilla 0, Real Zaragoza 0; Athletic Bilbao 1, Atletico Madrid 1; Osasuna 0, Las Palmas 1. Leading positions: 1, Real Madrid, 27pts; 2, Barcelona, 22; 3, Atletico Madrid, 23.

WEST GERMAN CUP: Quarter finals: Bandhausen 1, Borussia Dormund 3; Stuttgart 6, Schalke 2. Third round: Ulm (amateurs), 3, Kaiserslautern 4, (after extra time).

## CRICKET

# Yallop cheered in one-day game

Durban, (AP) – An innings of 63 by Graham Yallop, vice captain of the rebel Australian team helped his side to put Natal the task of scoring 4.7 runs an over to win the 50-over twilight match at Kingsmead.

Yallop, standing in for Hughes, pulled a hamstring early in his innings and was forced to use a runner. He received a standing ovation from a crowd of 13,000 for his contribution to Australian total of 234 for six.

After winning the toss, they took 18 overs to reach 50 in 68 minutes. The hundred mark was reached in 114 minutes as Yallop struck a two off McGlashan.

More cricket, page 18

## IN BRIEF

# Fellows for Hornets

Rochdale Hornets, who are chasing promotion from the Rugby League second division, have agreed terms at £5,000 with Warrington for Paul Fellows, the back.

● Sheffield Eagles have put two players on the transfer list: Mark Campbell, a former Leeds wing or centre, at £2,500 and Stephen Cooper, a former Huddersfield prop, for a nominal fee.

CRICKET: Jeff Thomson took four wickets for 29 runs yesterday to help take Queensland to the top of the Sheffield Shield table, South Australia being bowled out for 192 in Brisbane, 111 runs short of victory.

ATHLETICS: Sally Ann Hales, who ran the second-fastest time ever by a British woman when she finished third in the women's section of the London marathon this year, is to miss next year's event on April 20. Since qualifying as a junior doctor she has had little time to train and recently declined a place in Britain's European Cup marathon team.

MOTOR RACING: The 1986 world endurance championship calendar has been issued by the International Auto Sport Federation (FISA).
April 6: Mugello (Italy); April 20: Monza (Italy), sprint event; May 5: Silverstone; May 31: June 1: Le Mans 24 Hours (France); July 20: Brands Hatch; August 24: Nurburgring (West Germany); September 14: Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium); October 5: Fuji, Japan; November 30: Shah Alam (Malaysia), sprint event; December 7: Surfers Paradise (Australia). Only the races on April 20, July 20 and November 30 count towards the Drivers' Championship.

## SQUASH RACKETS

# Champion out of Scottish team

Mark McLean, the Scottish champion, and Chris McManus, who preceded him, have been left out of the Scotland team for the home counties championship at Telford from January 10 to 12. They withdrew from the Scottish closed championships at Glasgow last weekend in protest at the "ridiculous" £80 first prize and the lack of expenses. Alan Thomson, who based in London, fought back to defeat Brian Tait 3–2 in a marvellous final and both are in the national team.

SCOTLAND: F Ellis (Bridge of Allan), A Frame (Marcos), C Keith (Scottish Squash Rackets Club), J McGhee (Bridge of Allan), B Tait (Colinton Castle), A Thomson (Broomhill).

LONDONDERRY CUP: Blundells bt Eton 3-2.

## FOR THE RECORD

### AMERICAN FOOTBALL

UNITED STATES: National League (NFL): Miami Dolphins 28, Buffalo Bills 0; Atlanta Falcons 16, New Orleans Saints 10; Chicago Bears 37, Detroit Lions 17; Kansas City Chiefs 38, San Diego Chargers 34; Philadelphia Eagles 37, Minnesota Vikings 35; New England Patriots 34, Cincinnati Bengals 23; New York Jets 37, Cleveland Browns 10; Green Bay Packers 20, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 17; Indianapolis Colts 34, Houston Oilers 16; San Francisco 49ers 31, Dallas Cowboys 16.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

| Eastern Division | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami | 12 | 4 | .750 | 428 | 320 |
| NY Jets | 11 | 5 | .688 | 325 | 284 |
| New England | 11 | 5 | .688 | 362 | 290 |
| Indianapolis | 5 | 11 | .312 | 320 | 386 |
| Buffalo | 2 | 14 | .125 | 200 | 381 |
| **Central Division** | | | | | |
| Cleveland | 8 | 8 | .500 | 267 | 294 |
| Cincinnati | 7 | 9 | .438 | 441 | 437 |
| Pittsburgh | 7 | 9 | .438 | 379 | 355 |
| Houston | 5 | 11 | .312 | 284 | 412 |
| Cleveland win division | | | | | |
| **Western Division** | | | | | |
| LA Raiders | 11 | 4 | .733 | 338 | 302 |
| Denver | 11 | 5 | .688 | 380 | 329 |
| Seattle | 8 | 8 | .500 | 348 | 303 |
| San Diego | 8 | 8 | .500 | 407 | 435 |
| Kansas City | 6 | 10 | .375 | 317 | 360 |
| Raiders win division | | | | | |

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

| Eastern Division | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 10 | 6 | .625 | 357 | 333 |
| NY Giants | 10 | 6 | .625 | 389 | 283 |
| Washington | 10 | 6 | .625 | 297 | 212 |
| Philadelphia | 7 | 9 | .438 | 256 | 310 |
| St Louis | 5 | 11 | .313 | 278 | 414 |
| Dallas win division, Giants qualify for play-offs | | | | | |
| **Central Division** | | | | | |
| Chicago | 15 | 1 | .938 | 456 | 198 |
| Green Bay | 8 | 8 | .500 | 337 | 355 |
| Minnesota | 7 | 9 | .438 | 345 | 358 |
| Detroit | 7 | 9 | .438 | 307 | 388 |
| Tampa Bay | 2 | 14 | .125 | 294 | 448 |
| Chicago win division | | | | | |
| **Western Division** | | | | | |
| LA Rams | 11 | 4 | .733 | 334 | 221 |
| San Francisco | 10 | 6 | .625 | 411 | 253 |
| New Orleans | 5 | 11 | .313 | 294 | 401 |
| Atlanta | 4 | 12 | .250 | 282 | 452 |
| Rams win division, San Francisco qualify for play-offs | | | | | |

### BASKETBALL

UNITED STATES: National Association (NBA): New York Knickerbockers 100, Washington Bullets 93; Cleveland Cavaliers 119, Dallas Mavericks 105; Portland Trailblazers 121, Denver Nuggets 114.

Eastern Conference

ATLANTIC DIVISION

| | P | W | L | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 21 | 6 | .778 | – |
| New Jersey | 17 | 12 | .586 | 5 |
| Philadelphia | 18 | 12 | .571 | 5½ |
| Washington | 13 | 14 | .481 | 7½ |
| New York | 9 | 18 | .321 | 12 |
| **Central Division** | | | | |
| Milwaukee | 18 | 12 | .600 | – |
| Detroit | 15 | 14 | .517 | 3 |
| Atlanta | 14 | 14 | .500 | 3½ |
| Cleveland | 13 | 15 | .464 | 4½ |
| Chicago | 11 | 15 | .355 | 7 |
| Indiana | 8 | 18x | .286 | 8 |

Western Conference

MIDWEST DIVISION

| | P | W | L | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 16 | 10 | .643 | – |
| Houston | 18 | 11 | .621 | ½ |
| San Antonio | 18 | 12 | .571 | 1½ |
| Utah | 15 | 14 | .533 | 3 |
| Dallas | 13 | 14 | .481 | 4 |
| Sacramento | 9 | 18 | .333 | 8 |
| **PACIFIC DIVISION** | | | | |
| La Lakers | 24 | 3 | .889 | – |
| Portland | 16 | 14 | .533 | 8½ |
| Seattle | 17 | 17 | .500 | 9 |
| Phoenix | 9 | 17 | .346 | 14 |
| LA Clippers | 9 | 18 | .333 | 14½ |
| Golden State | 10 | 20 | .333 | 15 |

### ICE HOCKEY

NORTH AMERICAN: National League (NHL): Washington Capitals 7, Quebec Nordiques 6; Buffalo Sabres 5, Boston Bruins 3; Minnesota North Star 8, New Jersey Devils 3; Winnipeg Jets 7, Edmonton Oilers 5; Chicago Black Hawks 7, Calgary Flames 4 (OT); Philadelphia Flyers 3, Pittsburgh Penguins 2 (5-4).

Wales Conference

Patrick Division

| | W | L | T | Pts | F | A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 26 | 9 | 0 | 52 | 160 | 107 |
| Washington | 20 | 8 | 4 | 44 | 128 | 102 |
| N York Islanders | 12 | 11 | 9 | 33 | 121 | 122 |
| Pittsburgh | 14 | 17 | 4 | 32 | 131 | 128 |
| N York Rangers | 15 | 17 | 2 | 32 | 124 | 115 |
| New Jersey | 13 | 19 | 1 | 27 | 125 | 145 |
| **Adams Division** | | | | | | |
| Quebec | 18 | 13 | 2 | 38 | 132 | 110 |
| Montreal | 17 | 12 | 4 | 38 | 144 | 121 |
| Boston | 15 | 11 | 6 | 36 | 124 | 113 |
| Buffalo | 16 | 16 | 2 | 34 | 124 | 117 |
| Hartford | 16 | 14 | 1 | 33 | 127 | 124 |

Campbell Conference

Norris Division

| | W | L | T | Pts | F | A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St Louis | 15 | 12 | 4 | 34 | 117 | 116 |
| Chicago | 13 | 15 | 4 | 30 | 136 | 150 |
| Minnesota | 10 | 16 | 7 | 27 | 127 | 133 |
| Toronto | 8 | 19 | 5 | 21 | 121 | 144 |
| Detroit | 7 | 20 | 4 | 18 | 101 | 152 |
| **Smythe Division** | | | | | | |
| Edmonton | 24 | 7 | 4 | 52 | 189 | 141 |
| Calgary | 17 | 13 | 3 | 37 | 142 | 118 |
| Winnipeg | 12 | 20 | 3 | 27 | 123 | 162 |
| Vancouver | 11 | 19 | 4 | 26 | 126 | 146 |
| Los Angeles | 8 | 20 | 4 | 20 | 109 | 164 |

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier division: Ayr Bruins 16, Streatham Redskins 7; Dundee Rockets v Ayr Bruins, postponed; Dundee Rockets v Murrayfield Racers 4; Fife Flyers 8, Whitley Warriors 6; Murrayfield Racers 11, Streatham Redskins 5; Cleveland Bombers 10, Nottingham Panthers 5; Peterborough Pirates 5, Durham Wasps 10; Whitley Warriors 8, Nottingham Panthers 4. First division: Blackpool Seagulls 12, Oxford City Stars 17, Glasgow Dynamos 15, Oxford City Stars 4, Richmond Flyers 3, Lee Valley Lions 10; Solihull Barons 15, Altrincham Aces 5; Southampton Vikings 7, Bournemouth Stags 11.

### TENNIS

MELBOURNE: Victorian men's open tennis tournament: First round: S Barr (Aus) bt T Benhabiles (Fr), 6-4, 7-5; M Robertson (SA) bt R Saad (Arg), 4-6, 7-6, 6-1; M Woodforde (Aus) bt R Simpson (NZ), 6-3, 6-3; J Carter (US) bt D Visser (SA), 7-6, 6-3.

MIAMI BEACH: Orange Bowl Junior Championships: Boys 18s, Semi-finals: C Pistolesi (It) bt G Perez Roldan (Arg), 6-2, 6-1; B Orassar (Yug) bt C Garner (US), 7-5, 6-1. Girls 18s, Semi-finals: M J Fernandez (US) bt L Gerrone (It), 6-3, 6-1; P Tarabini (Arg) bt E Galphin (US), 8-3, 6-2. Boys 16s, Finals: A Boetsch (Fr) bt P Weenberg (Swe), 6-3, 6-3. Girls 16s, Finals: S Noir Chateau (Fr) bt A Dechaume (Fr), 6-3, 6-1.

### BOXING

BANGKOK: World Boxing Association (WBA) Junior-bantamweight championship: Khaosai Galaxy (Thai) bt Edgar Monserrat (Par), KO 2nd.

### CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: (In Brisbane): Queensland 391 for 8 dec and 162 for 8 dec (G Ritchie 63), South Australia 251 and 192 (D Hookes 72, J Thomson 4 for 28). Queensland won by 110 runs. (In Melbourne): New South Wales 241 and 319 for 3 (S Small 123, D Wellham 83), Victoria 273 for 9 dec. Match drawn.

### FOOTBALL

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Preston North End 1, Oldham Athletic 2.

## OVERSEAS LEAGUE AND CUP RESULTS

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RUGBY UNION

# England selectors take a last look after lessons of divisional championship

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

England's selectors, with the divisional championship and the bulk of their work now behind them, can settle down for Christmas, even if England's leading players remain on tenterhooks for the announcement on January 1 of the team to play Wales on January 18. The selectors will watch the games between Leicester and the Barbarians, and Bath v Northampton, on Saturday, before their dispositions are known, but that is mainly to be convinced of match fitness.

I would have thought the nucleus of their team was established before the divisional games began, but the championship has thrown up considerable information, positive and negative, and has done much to settle doubts over the remaining team positions. Thorn EMI, the sponsors, and the selectors must have been pleased with the way it has gone.

Roger Uttley, coach to the London division, who lost to the Midlands in the championship decider last Saturday, reflected many people's thoughts: "I think the championship has been great for the game. Everyone can learn fromm it and the players have enjoyed the opportunity to train and work together and play as a team at what is undoubtedly a higher level than club rugby. Our lads, for instance, have been very disciplined in their approach and have accepted a lot of repsonsibility".

The skill factor is important in championship and international matches: but as important is the ablility to adapt to *novel surroundings*, to different personnel, to make decisions under great pressure. In that *area of pressure Saturday's* game at Northampton was particularly interesting, not so much for what players did but for what they found themselves unable to do.

Certainly the championship has been good for previously underrated or apparently discarded players: Simon Smith, the Richmond stand-ff half, and Probyn and Pinnegar from the London pack, all advanced their claims significantly to consider*ation at B level, if not higher.* The same could be said of Hodgkinson, Johnson and Peter Cook, from the Midlands.

Salmon has been unable to confirm the excellent impression he made touring with England in New Zesland; Rendall may have re-established himself in the selectors' eyes; Goodwin, the Moseley wing, who had an unhappy tour, has applied himself conscientiously, so that, although he did not receive a pass last Saturday, he concentrated hard on his dfensive game, which is not always easy on the wing, far from the general passage of events.

These two divisions treated their championship aspirations seriously nd deserved their successes. The North, in third place, tied themselves to a selection system which gave each of six counties one representative, not all of whom were necessarily the best in the division.

The South and South-West, hit initially by injuries, lacked support off the field in their preparations and during matches. It was sad for their players to hear a Midlands selector saying at Kingsholm that his players would be more than happy to play all their away games there, such was the absence of enthusiasm for the home team.

Melville and Andrew may have resolved the half back battle at Bristol. Underwood, though lacking first-class rugby this season, and Smith seem likely to retain the wing positions, though Harrison poses a threat. Davies will be at full back.

The centres will come from Halliday, Simms, Salmon and Dodge, with Dodge remaining in the frame because of his vast experience and the limited international exposure of all the other halves and threequarters.

Halliday missed the South-West final game because of a calf injury, for which he is receiving treatment this week from the Bristol City physiotherapist, but he is optimistic about playing for the Barbarians on Saturday. His club, Bath, who play Clifton on Boxing Day, will be interested to hear the upshot of yesterday's meeting between their club coaching trio and Alan Jones, the Australian coach, whose visit to Britain ends this week.

Coventry, who play their Midlands rivals, Moseley, on Thursday, would be delighted to find three of their forwards in an England pack. Brain, the hooker, is a certainty, Robbins and Johnson are probables. I wonder if England will gamble *on Redman's potential and play* him with Colclough in the second row as their front of the *line jumper, his best position* though not that in which he plays for club or division.

The Welsh, too, have some important holes to fill before announcing their side, not least that of scrum-half. Douglas, of London Welsh, is one of the prime contenders and is in a party of 26 his club are taking to Wales after Christmas. He will play agianst Llanelli on Thursday but not at Swansea on Friday.



**The last hoorah: American Football bids farewell to the 43-year-old Minnesota Vikings kicker, Jan Stenerud, holder of the record number of field goals in the National Football League, as he comes onto the field on Sunday for his last game in a 19-year career**

ICE HOCKEY

# Unger helps Dundee find appetite

By Robert Pryce

Garry Unger flew home to Canada yesterday, so his Christmas should certainly be white. On Sunday night he led the Dundee Rockets to a 7-4 win over Murrayfield Racers, the Heineken *British League leaders, so his days* should be merry and bright, at least until next Sunday when he is due back for a game at Ayr.

After more than 1,000 games in North America's National Hockey League and several matches for the Canadian national team, Unger is widely known as the "Iron Man", but his resilience has been tested *this season by Dundee's indifferent* form. Their league position, two points off the top with three games in hand, rather flatters them. Their wins have come at the expense of lowlier opposition and their defeats have come at home: 6-5 to Durham and, most humiliatingly, 12-1 to Fife.

"We are only at about 65 per cent of our capacity," Unger, the team's player-coach, said last month. "There is no hunger about them." *Tom Stewart*, the club chairman, complained.

On Sunday Unger and their hunger were much closer to full capacity. Roch Bois, the fastest wing in the league, scored three goals in the first 14 minutes as the Rockers burst into a 4-0 lead. Though they were missing Alastair Wood, their British international defenceman, *they held on through a second* period made awkward by a series of penalties. Unger finished with two goals and one assist.

Jim Lynch, the Murrayfield player-coach, eventually contained Bois by marking him himself. His tactical options have been somewhat curtailed by the Murrayfield committee, who released five *players last week, including Hugh* Findlay, the British junior international defenceman.

*Streatham Redskins and Nottingham Panthers* are also heading for an unhappy New Year after two defeats each at the weekend. Streatham lost Stefan on a one-game suspension when he speared Neil in the second minute of the game at Murrayfield on Saturday, then had two players sent off as they went down to a 16–7 defeat at Ayr on *Sunday. Nottingham took a 3–0* lead at Cleveland before falling to a 10–3 defeat on Saturday, then gave up four unanswered third-period goals at Whitley Bay on Sunday to loose 8–4. It was Whitley's first win for 10 games.

YACHTING

# Tiller poses problem for Spanish

By Barry Pickthall

*NZI Enterprize and Atlantic* Privateer continued their close-fought duel ass the southern ocean towards Tasmania yesterday oor the second stage of the Whitbread-round-the-world race. But 1,000 miles behind, the crew abroad the smaller Spanish yacht Fortune Lights reported the they were struggling with their emergency *tiller after their primary steering* system had broken.

Cote d'Or, another of the *casualties among this 15-strong fleet* to report similar problems last week has now been repaired and her crew have decided to continue directly to Auckland instead diverting to Perth.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 11.30 GMT yesterday): 1, NZI Enterprize (D Taylor, NZ); 2, Atlantic Privateer (P Kurtz, USA); 3, UBS Switzerland (P Fehlmann, Switz); 4, Drum (R Novak, GB); 5, Lion New Zealand (P Blake, NZ). Handicap position: 1, Atlantic Privateer; 2, NZI Enterprize; 3, Philips Innovator (D Nauta, Neth); 4, L'Esprit d'Equipe (L Pean, Fra); 5, Fazer Finland (M Bernerk, Fin).

BOXING

# Thai champion quickly halts his challenger

Bankok, (Reuter) – Khaosai *Galaxy of Thailand*, retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) Junior-bantamweight title yesterday when he knocked out the challenger, Edgar Monserrat, of Panama, late in the second round of their 15-round contest.

Monserrat used his long reach and speed to advantage in the first round, scoring well with a variety of *punches. He again impressed at the* start of the second round with speedy jabs to the face and body, but all his good work came to nothing when Khaosai caught him flush on the jaw with a ferocious left hook.

The challenger staggered along the ropes as the referee gave him a mandatory count of eight.

Sensing victory, Khaosai waded *in with a two-fisted assault and* Monserrat went down for another mandatory count. He returned briefly, gamely trying to trade blows with the champion.

But after pinning him to the ropes, Khaosai unleashed a flurry of punches to the head and body which left Monserrat prostrate.

The referee signalled that the bout was over when it was clear the challenger was not likely to regain his feet.

More boxing, page 20

# Australian wave thunders on

By Peter Bills

**Eastern Counties Schools 0**
**Australian Schools ..... 52**

The Australian Schools' triumphant march through British rugby continued in typically *expansive style at Grange Road*, Cambridge, yesterday with a victory by four goals and seven tries to nil. The match, on a beautiful, spring-like afternoon, showed the alarming and enlarging gulf to be found between the countries, especially at this level.

True, Counties were a scratch combination insufficiently prepared for such a match. Yet, apart from Bevan, their brave full back who gamely tackled the yellow tide on *every occasion, the English boys* were made to look woefully second best purely on the basis of basic skills.

Australian support play for the ball-carrier was overwhelmingly superior: the running and passing of the three-quarters was forceful, straight and far crisper and the ball was rarely allowed to die.

Charles, the touring side's right wing, made a try for Foley but broke his right shoulder *in scoring another* himself. His tour is at an end. Stuart, the captain, left with him because of his long-standing ankle injury. But Newman, a wing from David Campese's old school and Shaw proved eminently capable deputies.

O'Connell and Stuart scored the other first-half tries but Kahl's goal-*kicking problems meant all went* unconverted. Tombs could do little better. In the second half Counties were swept away.

Fulivai held a seemingly impossible pass to run clear for one try and two tries came in a minute, Crawford scoring straight from the kick-off after Scott-Young's try. Crawford's first score was the try of the game: a move which began on the Australian 22-metre line. *Crawford (again), Kahl, Davies and* Giddey added tries

SCORERS: Australian Schools: Tries: Crawford 2, Foley, Charles, O'Connell, Stuart, Fulivai, Scott-Young, Kahl, Davies, Giddey. Cons: Kahl 3, Tombs.

EASTERN COUNTIES SCHOOLS: N Bevan (St Joseph's, Ipswich); P Bushnell (Tabor, Braintree), S Robson (Culford; rep: B Tucker (Campion School, Hornchurch)), S Worrall (Greshams, Holt), R Shaldh (Jack Hunt School, Peterborough); M Gallop (King', Ely), R Aslett (Long Road sixth form College, Cambridgeshire); W Hallet (Wanstead High School), A Brewer (Greshams), I Dueston (Forest Lodge, Romford), E Peters (Brentwood), G Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds Technical College), K Worrall (King's, Ely), D Hunt (Newmarket Upper), K Kilham (Greshams).

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS: M Crawford; R Charles (rep: C Newman), A Fulival, R Tombs, S O'Connell; P Kahl, R Stuart (capt; rep: P Shaw); B Davies, M Foley, D Offenberg, S Scott-Young, D Dix, C Harley, W Giddey, D Wilson.

Referee: R Quittenton (London Society).

CRICKET

# Australia call up Waugh

Melbourne (Agencies) – The Australian selectors yesterday named Steve Waugh, an inexperienced all-rounder from New South Wales, in the side to meet India in the second Test which begins here on Thursday.

Waugh, aged 20, and David Gilbert, the fast bowler, are the only changes to the Australian team which drew the first Test in Adelaide. They replace Robbie Kerr, 12th man in Adelaide, and Merv Hughes, who on his Test debut took one wicket for 123 runs. Hughes has been placed on standby for Gilbert, who will undergo a further fitness test today after missing the first Test through injury.

Waugh, an exciting batsman who also bowls right-arm fast-medium, has been in top form recently. In his *last Sheffield Shield match, against* South Australia, he made an unbeaten 119. Waugh said he would be approaching his Test debut with confidence.

Rain has interrupted every oe of the Indian tour matches to date, and Venkataraghavan, *the touring* team's manager, said the team was under-prepared for the second test. "We simply must take strength from the fact that we performed well in the first test," he said.

The Indians had hoped that their potential match-winner, Laxman Sivaramakrishnan, the leg-spinner, would play his way back into the *reckoning for the second test against* Tasmania, but the match was abandoned without a ball bowled.

Kapil Dev, the India captain, yesterday dismissed reports of growing aggression between his side and Australia and his differences with Allan Border, the Australian captain. Border has accused Kapil Dev of acting out of spite for refusing to agree on an early end to the drawn Test in Adelaide.

In other incidents, the legitimacy of *Chetan Sharma's bowling action* was questioned and Merv Hughes clashed with Kapil Dev after a gust of wind dislodged a bail. "It is not a matter of ill feelings. You play the game and these things do happen in cricket matches," Kapil Dev said.

"If we get five days cricket, we will definitely get some result. Melbourne is known for getting a decision," he said.

AUSTRALIA (from): W B Phillips, D C Boon, G R Marsh, *A R Border, G M Ritchie, D W Hookes, R J Matthews, R J Bright, C J* McDermott, B A Reid, D R Gilbert, S Waugh.

## SNOW REPORTS

| | Depth (cm) L | U | State of Piste | Weather | °C |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SWITZERLAND | | | | | |
| Davos | 15 | 30 | Hard | Fair | –7 |
| Saas-Fee | 10 | 30 | Powdr | Good | 0 |
| St Moritz | 30 | 30 | Hard | Fair | –9 |
| Verbier | 10 | 40 | Hard | Fair | –4 |
| Zermt | 10 | 30 | H'd | G'd | 2 |
| ITALY | | | | | |
| Bardonecchia | 15 | 40 | – | – | – |
| Bormio | 20 | 80 | – | – | – |
| Livigno | 30 | 80 | – | – | – |
| Madgregna | 15 | 40 | – | – | – |
| Madesimo | 25 | 40 | – | – | – |

RUGBY LEAGUE

# Pinner is the key

By Keith Macklin

St Helens after their exit from the *John Player Special Trophy* on Saturday, in a ridiculously one-sided match against Hull Kingston Rovers, are hoping that their loose forward captain and inspiration Harry Pinner, will be fit to play in the big derby game at Wigan on Boxing Day.

Wigan are in irresistible form, even though their unbeaten gallop *was halted in the 12–12 draw at* Halifax. A St Helens' side without Pinner is at present no match for them.

Another outstanding first division game is the battle between the top two sides in the first division, Oldham and Widnes at the Watersheddings. After their long sequence of away games, Oldham *have beaten Salford and Dewsbury* at home, and on Boxing Day they can both prove their fitness as League leaders and also get some much-needed money into their coffers.

As ever, the holiday abounds in crowd-pulling derby matches, with *Bradford Northern, just off the* bottom of the table, entertaining the in-form Halifax. Leeds, who came back to winning ways at Castleford on Sunday, are at home to their neighbours, Dewsbury and it will be a shock if the bottom club win at Headingley. Salford and Swinton fight out a time-honoured derby in a match which has the look of a *pointer in relegation issues.*

In the second division the outstanding fixture is one between the season's revival side, Rochdale Hornets and Leigh. Hornets expect a bumper crowd of at least 5,000 for this match. Ambitious Hornets are expecting to sign the Warrington winger Paul Fellows and have inquired about the availability of *John Bevan, a former British Lion* and Warrington winger, who has not played this season.

Bevan is a school teacher and games master at Rossall School in Lancashire, and has little free time for Rugby League these days.

## For the quinquagenarian of Tewin life begins at 40 for six

# The Thunderer is bawled out l-b-w

Simon Barnes

I am sure that David Gower does not ring up Mike Gatting the evening before a Test match and say: "It's OK, Gatt – we've got 11 *players." What, then, does he know* about cricket? No one who has not known the unfettered joy of hearing *that 11 men will be playing cricket* on your side on the morrow truly knows cricket. No one who has not experienced the despair of hearing such news as "Fish can't play – he promised to take Maureen and the kids to the seaside" can truly claim to be a cricketer.

Then comes the terrible Friday night or Saturday night ring-round. "We haven't met for ages, how nice of you to call . . ." "Do you fancy a game of cricket tomorrow?" "Cricket? Cricket? *I haven't played* cricket for seven years." "Never mind that, will you play tomorrow?"

Really, the gathering together of 11 bods is the most exciting and unpredictable part of any match. To Play for my boys – the gallant Tewin Irregulars – is to experience things beyond the imaginings of the average John Arlott impersonator. Who, indeed, could have predicted the extraordinary events that surrounded our annual match against my colleagues of *The Times* Sportsdesk? It was one of those summer days that, when recalled in *the depths of winter, seems to have* been touched by gold.

It always looked as if it was going to be an extraordinary match. For a start, on Friday night we had 11 men down to play. However, this unconventional beginning was soon put in a properr Tewin perspective only eight turned up. The stage was set for what I later claimed as my *match-winning nought*. I have scored many noughts but few as accomplished and brilliant as this one.

The strength of the Tewin batting line-up any week can be reckoned by my position in the batting order. Since I went in No 8 on this occasion, things looked dire. Especially as I was last man in and we were *40 for six*, our batting having crumbled like the cake at a bad Tewin tea.

*My partner, the elegant quinqua*genarian Wilder, formulated a master plan: we would try not to get out and hope the missing trio arrived before we did. (Wilder had thought his cricket days were over. Age, he believed, had withered his cover drive. But at Tewin he is a star.)

Despite my sporting attempts to run him out, Wilder batted undaunted by the men of *The Times* and I stayed in for a goodly period. Then, like the US cavalry, the missing three players drove up, telling tales of punctures and missed turnings, and so I promptly got out, *though not on purpose.* Wilder proceeded to stroke his way to a natty 30 and the late-arriving Goodwin lashed himself into a little frenzy and scored 17 not out and said he didn't think any one would ever get him out. It is on such delusions of cricketing grandeur that Tewin Irregulars thrive.

Some of our cricketers can actually play rather well – admittedly they tend to stand out in the crowd – but we like to include a token cricketer every now and then. We managed to persuade a brilliant black chap called Elvis to play for us *against the Victoria and Albert* Museum – and he terrified the life out of them – and that was long *before he started bowling at the* speed of light. Another very fine cricketer called Piers who skittled an opposition for us was sorely missed later in the season when he had the misfortune to go to jail.

Against *The Times* our best hopes lay with my neighbour, Pratt. It took a brilliant stroke of captaincy to get the best out of him: Roob, our captain, had been reading Mike Brearley. He told Pratt: "One more over." So Pratt took two wickets in *successive balls, the second one leg*-before, and Thorpe, the victim, still complains about the volume of my appeal. I expect they are still complaining about it as far away as Welwyn Garden City. It is only volume, I believe, that raised the Golden Digit.

The match was beautifully poised. Not even the skipper's "leg-spin" could alter that. Pratt bowled with maddening accuracy, one of their boys walked when caught behind, proving that the spirit of cricket still lives on Tewin's sacred turf, and when their last wicket pair were in, *with 30 required, it looked all over.* Considering *The Times's* No 11 was a Frenchman who had never played the game in his life, an outside observer would have concluded that it was all over. We at Tewin, however, knew better and braced ourselves to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

Pratt bowled five balls at the Frenchman and the Frenchman defied him utterly. At the other end Pryce – writer on ice hockey, American football and basketball – started to farm the bowling with startling success. We seemed to be *willing him to score a single every* sixth ball. He crept, nudged and nurdled his way towards the total. A brilliant bowling change from the skipper saw him cut loose and crack two successive fours. The Frenchman stopped everything on the rare occasions he faced anything. The Tewin fielding went silly: throws got wild, balls ran between legs. It seemed inevitable somehow that the Frenchman would smite the winning runs with a perfect straight drive.

Our skipper gave the ball to Eddie – he's got a degree in people, our skipper – probably a third – and *Pratt tried once again to winkle out* Pryce. And the hockey writer then learned that the age of miracles was not past: an in-ducker scrambled its way past bat, on to pad, on to stumps. *The Times* were four runs short. Tewin had actually won

Afterwards – I'll be quite open about this – we went to the pub. Pratt and Wilder were toasted lavishly. Thorpe said he thought my appeal was overstated. Pryce and the Frenchman received the kind of glowing, sincere congratulations that only ever come from winners to losers.

And we men of Tewin continued the season-long debate about what colours we should choose for the cups we keep intending to get made. Red, yellow and purple sounded striking. Red for the blood of the batsmen; yellow for the courage of the batsmen; and purple? That's for the colour of the prose, of course. We got them made up in time for Christmas: Tewin cricket is a joy for all seasons, you see.

# RACING

## WETHERBY

*Going: good to soft*

12.30 CHRISTMAS NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: 4-y-o: £548: 2m) (12 runners)

2 120 *LOST ALBERT (CD)* M Camacho 11-7 ..... R Fenwick
3 612p QUALITAIR PRINCESS (B) K Stone 11-2 ..... C Hawkins
4 2342 ACCRCATE (B) P Charlton 11-0 ..... P A Charlton
6 LAKE VALENTINA M W Easterby 11-0 ..... J J O'Neill
7 p6c- NEW TIMES N Bycroft 11-0 ..... M Richardson 7
8 0400 OLD NICK J Harrison 11-0 ..... –
9 PARKSIDE LAD H Date 11-0 ..... R Rowe
12 021 RINUS D McCain 11-7 ..... N Doughty
13 0333 ROVIGO W A Stephenson 11-0 ..... R Lamb
15 000 CAP THAT J R Turner 10-9 ..... Mr S Swiers 7
16 000 C B M GIRL R Woodhouse 10-9 ..... N Tinkler
21 TRIGO D Lee 10-9 ..... Mr H Brown 7

1984: Phoenix Gold 11-0 *M Dwyer (4-7 fav)* J Fitzgerald 12 ran.

13-8 Lake Valentina, 4 Acerate, 11-2 Rinus, 13-2 Lost Albert, 8 Qualitair Princess, 12 Rovigo, 14 Cap That, 20 others.

### Wetherby selections

By Mandarin

12.30 Lake Valentina. *1.0 Our Fun. 1.35 Jim* Thorpe. 2.05 The Langholm Dyer. 2.35 Forgive 'n' Forget. 3.10 Caro's Gift.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.35 Forgive 'n' Forget.

1.0 CASTLEFORD HANDICAP CHASE (£3,609: 2m 50yd) (5)

4 100-2 KARENOMORE M H Easterby 7-11-7 ..... J J O'Neill
5 1-206 KEVINSPORT (CD) J Fitzgerald 7-11-6 ..... –
6 1111 VILLIERSTOWN (CD) W A Stephenson 6-10-13 (5 ex) ..... R Lamb
7 3102 OUR FUN J Gifford 5-10-11 ..... R Rowe
10 p4-e8 BARTON CROSS (CD) A Watson 11-10-7 ..... M Pepper

1984: Ryeman 7-11-10 G Bradley (5-2) Mrs M Dickinson 5 ran.

11-8 Our Fun, 2 Villerstown, 11-4 Karenomore, 20 Barton Cross.

1.35 BICKERTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,163: 2m 4f) (7)

1 6108 CHARLOTTE'S DUNCE (CD) M H Easterby 5-11-10 ..... R O'Leary
2 0000 CARNEADES (B) (CD) M H Easterby 5-11-3 ..... J J O'Neill
4 2402- FRENCH LORD (D) G Richards 7-11-0 ..... Mr J Quinn 7
5 4133 JIM THORPE G Richards 4-11-0 ..... N Doughty
6 6l-10 WYECROFT (D) J Fitzgerald 7-10-10 ..... R Crank
7 2242 SHEPHERD'S HYMN T Fitt 4-10-9 ..... Del Williams
10 0210 GREEN GORSE (C,D) (BF) N Croop 5-10-5 (5 ex) ..... C Hawkins

1984: Miss Apollo 7-10-0 J Goulding (5-1) Miss Z Green 9 ran.

7-4 Jim Thorpe, 5-2 Shepherd's Hymn, 100-30 Green Gorse, 6 Carneades, Charlotte's Dunce, 8 French Lord.

2.5 JOHN HAGGAS MEMORIAL NOVICE CHASE (£3,778: 3m 100yd) (7)

1 12l1 THE LANGHOLM DYER G Richards 6-11-8 ..... N Doughty
2 3121 CROSS-MASTER T Fitt 6-11-5 ..... R Crank
3 20-11 STRANDS OF GOLD J Fitzgerald 6-11-5 ..... R O'Leary
4 20-11 CAMP CONCERT B Wilkinson 6-11-1 ..... B Storey
6 2 CAMP CONCERT B Wilkinson 6-11-1 ..... –
9 49-p2 MACEDONIAN T Tate 7-11-1 ..... –
10 pp54- RUN A MILE W A Stephenson 6-11-1 ..... R Lamb
11 53p1 SOPHISTICATED Mrs A Tomkinson 7-11-1 ..... Miss A Beaumont

1984: Jimbrook 7-11-8 A Brown (4-6 fav) M H Easterby 8 ran.

11-8 Strands Of Gold, 3 The Langholm Dyer, 9-2 Cross Master, 6 Camp Concert, 8 Sophisticated, 16 Run A Mile.

2.35 ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (£7,262: 3m 100yd) (5)

1 11-13 FORGIVE 'N FORGET (CD) (BF) J Fitzgerald 8-12-0 ..... R O'Leary
3 28-31 DOOR LATCH J Gifford 7-10-8 (5 ex) ..... R Rowe
4 22p-p FORTINA'S EXPRESS W A Stephenson 11-10-8 ..... R Lamb
6 2414 WHY FORGET W A Stephenson 9-10-0 ..... B Storey
8 2241 SOLARES J Barry 5-10-0 (5 ex) ..... J J O'Neill

1984: Forgive 'N Forget 7-11-7 M Dwyer (4-6 fav) J Fitzgerald 4 ran.

10-11 Door Latch, 6-4 Forgive 'N Forget, 10 Why Forget, 12 Fortina's Express, Solares.

3.10 CHRISTMAS NOVICE HURDLE (Div II: 4-y-o: £548: 2m) (10)

1 00-1 M.Y.THE KNIGHT E Carter 11-7 ..... M Pepper
2 1 CARO'S GIFT (D) N Tinkler 11-7 ..... N Tinkler
3 30-01 DAD'S GAMBLE (D) R Fisher 11-7 ..... N Doughty
5 0 CITY ENTERTAINER Mrs C Postlethwaite 11-0 ..... P A Charlton
7 0p CURRAGH W A Stephenson 11-0 ..... R Lamb
9 3t00- SAVOIRE VIVRE M W Easterby 11-0 ..... J J O'Neill
10 000 SURSIA D Lee 11-0 ..... B Storey
11 0333 TARTAR TUDOR R Thompson 11-0 ..... –
12 CALMATA Lady A Bowlby 10-9 ..... –
13 6-66 DONNA FARINA (BF) G Richards 10-9 ..... Mr J Quinn 7

1984: Waigaine 11-0 Mr J Quinn (7-1) A Bailey 11 ran.

5-4 Caro's Gift, 3 Dad's Gamble, 11-2 Donna Farina, 13-2 Blythe Knight, 12 Tartar Tudor, 16 City Entertainer, 20 others.

## HUNTINGDON

*Going: good to soft*

12.30 ST IVO NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: £880: 2m 4f) (19 runners)

1 p-119 RARE PLEASURE (D) R Carter 7-11-9 ..... –
2 3-140 DRYFEHEAD (B) K Bailey 5-11-7 ..... P Croucher
3 20-61 JAMES MY BOY (D) M Dickinson 5-11-7 ..... –
4 f0p9- ALSIKI P W Harris 6-11-0 ..... –
5 p/00-3 BE RESOLUTE (BF) J Blundell 6-11-0 ..... –
7 6 BOLD CONNECTION (BF) M Ryan 5-11-0 ..... J McLaughlin
9 00-30 CONNAUGHT CLEANERS (BF) C Vernon Miller 5-11-0 ..... G Memagh
10 0 DANCING ADMIRAL (BF) K Morgan 5-11-0 ..... –
11 63-2p DUNVEGAN CASTLE G Prest 6-11-0 ..... R Dunwoody
16 032 JACUZZI P Haynes 5-11-0 ..... P Corrigan 7
17 MAJOR BUSHING G Balding 5-11-0 ..... Mr S Mullins 7
18 P- MY WORD IS MY BOND B Curley 5-11-0 ..... D Murphy 4
19 p00-0 NEMO KYBO R Champion 5-11-0 ..... A Sharpe
21 00 SNOW MALLARD D Ancil 5-11-0 ..... R Kington
23 6 TROOPER SERGEANT G Huffer 6-11-0 ..... J Barlow
24 0 WELSH CONSORT N Henderson 5-11-0 ..... –
25 0 EMPRESS JOSEPHINE C Bravery 5-10-9 ..... M Furlong
26 03-00 LADY HAMPSHIRE P Bailey 5-10-9 ..... J Duggan
28 f00-0 RUE-THE-DAY S T Harris ..... J Barlow

1984: Gay Rascal 5-11-0 *Mr S Sherwood (5-4) C Sherwood 17 ran*

5-2 Rare Pleasure, 7-2 James My Boy, 9-2 Jacuzzi, 6 Dryfehead, 8 Be Resolute, 10 Dancing Admiral, 12 Dunvegan Castle.

### Huntingdon selections

By Mandarin

*12.30 James My Boy. 1.0 Country Agent. 1.30 Fearless* Imp. 2.0 Macoliver. 2.30 Lochrun. 3.0 Hasty Gamble.

1.0 PEPYS NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (£1,242: 2m 4f (10)

1 f00-4 ECHO SOUNDER T Forster 5-11-11 ..... R Dunwoody
4 4-04/ WISE WORDS P Bailey 7-10-8 ..... J Duggan
5 0-40/ FIDELIGHT C Bravery 7-10-7 ..... M Furlong
6 00/32 DRIVE EASY R Parker 7-10-4 ..... –
7 0004-1 FASTER STILL (CD) P Haynes 5-10-2 (7 ex) ..... –
8 3100 LUCKY GEM Mrs R Murdoch 8-10-0 ..... G Moore
9 0p-02 COUNTRY AGENT J Webber 7-10-0 ..... G Memagh
12 f0p0 DAN DARE O Henley 10-10-0 ..... –
13 0000 HENRY MAY STEEL R Champion 5-10-0 ..... J Barlow
14 p402 WILLMING N Morgan 5-10-0 ..... –

1984: Stray Shot 6-11-10 R Rowe (3-1) J Gifford 10 ran

2 Faster Still, 3 Country Agent, 9-2 Drive Easy, 6 Wise Words, 8 Echo Sounder, 12 Glomring, 14 Lucky Gem, 20 others.

1.30 EBF OUSE HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,010: 2m 200yd) (11)

1 11d2/ FEARLESS IMP R Shepherd 10-12-7 ..... D Wells 7
2 WHO SIR ME SIR O Henley 4-12-7 ..... –

## MARKET RASEN

*Going: soft*

12.45 RISBY SELLING HURDLE (£662: 2m) (15 runners)

1 0004 QUINTA DO LAGO (B) S Avery 4-11-5 ..... –
3 3043 FILS-DE-ROI Mrs P Sly 4-10-12 ..... M Bastard
4 0 LEESTHORPE LAD M Dickinson 4-10-12 ..... J A Harris
5 p-080 NEGRESCO G Morgan 4-10-12 ..... –
8 DREAM ONCE MORE T Kersey 4-10-7 ..... Susan Kersey 7
9 3432 ETERNAL DANCER (B) S Avery 4-10-7 ..... Mr P Dennis 7
10 002 LOVELY BUTTERFLY (B) M Lambert 4-10-7 ..... D Dutton
14 00- PHILYRA H Fleming 4-10-7 ..... A Welsh 7
15 00 RIBBLE STAR W Watts 4-10-7 ..... P Armitage
16 00-0 VELA ROSSA (B) A Potts 4-10-7 ..... J Hanson
17 3p-00 WHAT A POPS! K Morgan 4-10-7 ..... S Johnson
21 EVA BEAR J Doyle 5-10-6 ..... S Youdden 4
22 04 LADY GRIM W Watson 5-10-0 ..... M Brennan
24 SHILLION G Pritchard-Gordon 5-10-0 ..... T Jarvis 4
25 0p0 WARM AIR R Hartop 3-10-0 ..... S Keightley

1984: Buckminster Boy 3-10-5 M Brennan (6-4 fav) W Wharton 11 ran.

5-2 Shillion, 7-2 Eternal Dancer, 5 Fils-De-Roi, 13-2 Lovely Butterfly, Lady Grim, 8 Quinta Do Lago, 14 others.

1.15 LIMBER HILL NOVICE CHASE (£1,188: 2m) (14)

3 0p-pp DAVIDOFF A Potts 9-11-8 ..... J Hanson
5 033/0 JIMMYPICK J Leigh 7-11-9 ..... –
7 40-52 JUST ALICK (BF) M H Easterby 5-11-9 ..... R Earnshaw
9 4/0p BLACK EARL I Wardle 8-11-4 ..... P Dever
10 034/4- CROWLAND BRIG Mrs P Sly 5-11-4 ..... M Bastard
13 04 JOHANNESBURG J Leigh 7-11-4 ..... Mr L Kirby
14 p03/0 NEINA R Fisher 6-11-6 ..... K Ryan 7
18 p-2l4 SHERALAN R Parkins 6-11-6 ..... Del Williams
20 000-0 SLIPSTREAM LAD Miss J Wright 5-11-6 ..... P Blackburn
21 10-30 CAPE FAREWELL N Easterby 7-11-4 ..... Mr R Morley
22 0-400 SVEN DERRER (B) J Blundell 5-11-3 ..... D Dutton
25 000 WYGESON M Wigglesworth 5-11-3 ..... R Bellow 7
26 4220 PRINCE BUSKINS F Gorman 10-11-0 ..... D Wonnacott 7
27 110-0 RIGHT REGENT W R Williams 7-11-0 ..... P Leach
41 6 GAY TARQUIN Mrs S Scott 10-10-9 ..... –
42 0/p-b MISS TULLULAH S Forsey 7-10-9 ..... –
44 P/PP- STERRIDGE VALLEY A South 7-10-9 ..... Philip Hobbs

1984: Flogairig 8-11-5 P Leach (2-1) P Bailey 12 ran

5-2 Strath Leader, 4 African Star, 5 Right Regent, 6 Meister, 8 Sammy Lux, Bolt The Gate, 12 Black Earl, 14 Prince Buskins, 16 others.

1.45 KILVINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,786: 2m 4f) (9)

3 2121 VINO FESTA (CD) R Perkins 6-11-9 (7 ex) ..... Del Williams
5 1b/1-p OUR BARA BOY M Chapman 5-11-7 ..... R Barlow 7
6 66-19 RYECROFT (CD) J FitzGerald 7-11-3 ..... S Taylor 7
9 11-02 CONSCRIPTION (CD) J Leigh 5-10-13 ..... P Blackburn
10 134-0 THE END Mrs P Sly 5-10-11 ..... M Bastard
11 00/1p APPLE WINE (C) D Chapman 8-10-10 ..... S Keightley
15 1060 PINALE SEPT (C) H Fleming 5-10-1 ..... –
17 0000 SEEYOUAROUND (D) O Brennan 8-10-0 ..... M Brennan
18 0-020 THE PROCESSOR R Howe 4-10-0 ..... P Howe 7

1984: Randomly 5-10-5 Mr R Beggan (9-4 fav) D Morrill 17 ran.

2 Vino Festa, 11-4 Apple Wine, 5 Ryecroft, 8 The End, Our Bara Boy, 12 Conscription, Finale Sept, 16 others.

2.15 BRUCE CARR MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICE CHASE (£2,188: 3m) (13)

1 20-11 STRANDS OF GOLD (D) J FitzGerald 8-12-5 ..... –
2 f202- ANTIGUAN MOON J Blondell 7-11-9 ..... D Dutton
3 1/00 BOARDMANS VALUE R Perkins 7-11-8 ..... Del Williams
4 40-32 MACEDONIAN T Tate 7-11-8 ..... R Earnshaw
5 .11f SUNY ME (C) - R Scholey 7-11-7 ..... M Brennan
7 00-00 STEP ASHORE G Morgan 6-11-4 ..... S Johnson
8 0f DAN O'TULLY A Jarvis 6-11-2 ..... T Jarvis 4
9 44-2p FRENCH LIEUTENANT N Stevens 8-11-2 ..... Mr A Orkney 7
10 0p4 HISTORIC HOUSE M Easterby 10-11-2 ..... Mr R Morley
12 4/03 PRINCE'S LADY J Harris 9-11-2 ..... Mr A Walton 7
13 0000 PREAUX D Ringer 7-11-2 ..... –
16 0p-f0 ALJAZAAR R Perkins 5-11-1 ..... G Williams
17 0b64 MY NAME IS NOBODY J Young 7-10-11 ..... –

1984: Coral Delight 5-11-5 A J Wilson (4-1) Mrs T Pilkington 15 ran

11-8 Macedonian, 5-2 Antiguan Moon, 5 Boardmans Value, 13-2 Suny Me, French Lieutenant, 10 others.

### Market Rasen selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Eternal Dancer. 1.15 Just Alick. 1.45 Vino Festa. 2.15 Macedonian. 2.45 Volroy's Clown. 3.15 Kirkstyle.

2.45 ACCURATE NOVICE HURDLE (£976: 2m) (11)

1 1030 MCGILLICUDDY (D) J FitzGerald 5-11-3 ..... J Quinn 4
3 443T VULROY'S CLOWN O Brennan 7-11-3 ..... M Brennan
5 340-2 AMADIS (BF) T Barron 5-10-10 ..... R Earnshaw
10 1-000 CRUDEN BAY P Felgate 5-10-10 ..... –
12 p-00 GET GOING FRED Mrs N Macauley 6-10-10 ..... –
13 f0- HIGHAM GREY D Chapman 9-10-10 ..... G P Kelly
15 32-00 INDIAN J Glover 5-10-10 ..... D McKeown 7
16 WYNN J Bindell 5-10-10 ..... D Dutton
20 00/ ANNIVERSARY TOKEN R Woodhouse 5-10-5 ..... A Harris
22 p-0 KAYE-WOOD Mrs M Thomas 5-10-5 ..... –
23 000- MAINDRAKE HONEY B Temple 5-10-5 ..... J Hansen

1984: Steel Venture 5-11-3 J McLaughlin (3-1) M Ryan 8 ran.

9-4 McGillicuddy, 11-4 Volroy's Clown, 4 Amadis, 6 Indian, 8 Cruden Bay, 12 Hig

هكذا من الأصل



RACING: ELSWORTH'S CHASER CAN GAIN REVENGE FOR LAST YEAR'S NARROW KING GEORGE DEFEAT

# Waiting game should pay for Combs Ditch

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Combs Ditch, who was beaten only a short head by Burrough Hill Lad in the King George VI Steeplechase at Kempton Park a year ago can gain his revenge on the same horse in the same race on boxing day.

My selection, who comes from a stable in peak form, seems to run best when fresh. On his seasonal debut at Cheltenham earlier this month he could hardly have turned in a better performance then when he ran away from Final Argument, Western Sunset and Half Free over only two-and-a-half miles. Now it is his speed which makes me think that he can turn the tables on Burrough Hill Lad over three miles around a course as tight as Kempton.

The more I have seen of Burrough Hill Lad the more I am convinced that he will be better suited by a return to longer distances. Were Thursday's race run over something like 3½ miles at Cheltenham or Newbury I would think of *opposing him.*

However, over only three miles at Kempton I believe that he could prove vulnerable when Colin Brown asks Combs Ditch to quicken, especially if he does not brush up his jumping. At Ascot recently it was that department which let him down as much as anything, just as a bad mistake two out so nearly cost him his previous race at Chepstow.

With Acarine, the Tsarevich and Wayward Lad all in the field, the race is bound to be run at a strong gallop. While that will suit Burrough Hill Lad, it will also help Colin Brown to settle Combs Ditch early on so that he can unleash him towards the end as he did at Cheltenham.

Wayward Lad, Earls Brig and Half Free finished in that order at the end of a conditions race over three miles and a furlong at Liverpool in the spring. With a furlong less to cover I would not be surprised to see Half Free run a big race on Thursday because three miles is his absolute limit. But then his recent run at Cheltenham is another pointer to Combs Ditch. Wayward Lad will be meeting Earls Brig on 8lb better terms than at Haydock Park recently when there was only half a length between them.

Ladbroke yesterday opened an ante-post book on the Christmas hurdle which they sponsor. They make First Bout favourite at 11-4. They then go 9-2 Asir, 5 Ra Nova, 11-2 Gaye Brief, 6-1 Desert Orchid, who reverts to hurdling after a profitable spell chasing.

At Cheltenham earlier this *month I was disappointed with* Gay Brief's lack of response once the chips were down. On the other hand at Ascot I was *singularly impressed with the* way that First Bout performed on his seasonal debut and I think that he can remain unbeaten.

Insular, the Queen Mother's versatile five-year-old who ran well for a beginner at Ascot to finish fourth behind First Bout, albeit 10 lengths in arrears, turns out again for the Food Brokers Armour Novices' Hurdle with an obvious chance especially if he has learnt to hurdle a bit more fluently. In this instance, though, I go nap on Asswan to give John Francome another taste of success in his new role as a trainer.

Commenting on Asswan's chance yesterday, the former champion jockey told me that he had come on a lot since his first race at Southwell in which he was beaten only a short head and that he thought he would win. "*Help yourself, I reckon* he'll start at about 5-1 and win by five lengths" were the parting words from one of life's great characters. Francome entrusted the ride on Asswan to Graham Bradley, who will certainly do for me.

From Malton in the heart of Yorkshire I hear that Forgive 'n Forget, the winner of this year's Cheltenham Gold Cup but such a dismal flop a Haydock recently, is expected to atone for that failure by beating the SGB winner, Door Latch in the Roland Meyrick Handicap Chase. Jimmy Fitzgerald his trainer, certainly has a line on Door Latch through his Hennessy winner, Galway Blaze.

However, Fitzgerald is only too well aware of the fact that his other fancied runner at Wetherby, Strands of Gold, has a difficult task in the John Haggas Memorial Novices Chase against The Langholme Dyer, whose trainer Gordon Richards also has a good chance of winning the Bickerton Handicap Hurdle as well with Jim Thorpe.

With Tim Forester's stable now firing on all cylinders it could easily pay to follow the master of Letcombe Bassett's runners at Wincanton especially Co Member in the Harry Dufosee Handicap Chase. My selection showed signs of returning to form at Warwick recently when he was beaten three-quarters of a length by Roadster.

**Ramadi Dawn** (12.30) and **Private Views** (2.30 are others that I like on the Somerset track. The former ran well at Cheltenham when third behind *Midnight Count*



Colin Brown, rider of Combs Ditch



Half Free, the dual Mackeson Gold Cup winner, whom Fred Winter, the trainer, has decided to run in Kempton's King George VI Chase in preference to such illustrious stable companions as Observe, Brown Chamberlin and Fifty Dollars More. Mecca make last year's winner, Burrough Hill Lad, their favourite for the big race at even money. They then go 5-2 Combs Ditch, 6 Half Free, 7 Wayward Lad, 10 Earls Brig, 33 The Tsarevich.

## Thawhorn should have edge on fitness

From Our Irish Correspondent, Dublin

The Tommy Carberry trained three-year-old hurdler, Thawhorn, has *made great improvement since* being beaten 20 lengths by Dazzlem over hurdles at Tralee in September. Thawhorn was gaining a third successive win when he comfortably defeated Saturday's impressive Chepstow winner, the Footman, in the Aurelius Hurdle at Ascot last month.

*At Leopardstown on Boxing Day,* Thawhorn and Dazzlem meet again in Duffy Meats Juvenile Hurdle. If I could be sure that Dazzlem was his peak I would fancy him to confirm Tralee form with Thawhorn, notwithstanding that improvement. However, Liam Browne has expressed his doubts about the fitness of Dazzlem who gashed his leg when winning at Fairyhouse and was off the gallops for nearly three weeks.

Fredcoteri has run some of his *best races at Leopardstown* and it was over this circuit that he scored in the 1983 and 84 runnings of the Sweeps Hurdle. Arthur Moore is satisfied that he is going to make up into a very smart novice chaser this term, but he could still meet his match in Galmoy

● The ambulance incident at Naban on Saturday continues to make news in Ireland. What happened there was that Michael Byrne, the jockey, having taken a *heavy fall and fractured a thigh bone* was left lying on the race track for more than 20 minutes because the ambulance had a flat tyre.

The stewards of the Irish National Hunt Steeplechase Committee yesterday expressed "great concern about the failure of the ambulance service" and promised a full investigation of the incident early in the New Year.

## Trainers' preferences

The following is a list of trainers' preferences for horses declared at more than on meeting on Boxing Day: Kempton: 1.10 Welsh Consort; 3.15 Charnar Party, Little Polvair, Wetherby: 1.0 Our Fun; 2.5 Strands Of Gold. Wincanton: 2.0 Swallow Prince; 3.0 Il Pontevecchio, Gathabawn, Bluelimit, Shamlan. Huntingdon: 12.30 James My Boy, Wolverhampton: 12.445 Little Beaver, Master Feather, Shared Experience, Dark Comic. Market Rasen: 1.45 Ryecroft, The Processor; 2.15 Macedonian; 3.15 Kevinclort, Newton Abbot: 12.45 One For Mammy; 1.15 Strath Leader; 2.15 Banty Heath, Golden Rapier; 2.45 Broadheath. Sedgefield: 2.15 Starlight Lad.

SNOOKER

## Francisco obtains a temporary reprieve

By Sydney Friskin

Silvino Francisco, of South Africa, who has been fined £6,000 and docked two world ranking points for alleged incidents during the Dulux British Open final against Kirk Stevens last March, has been temporarily reprieved by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

The WPBSA yesterday refunded the sum of £6,000 to Francisco, restored his world ranking points and granted him a special hearing by a disciplinary committee during the Mercantile Credit Classic at Warrington on January 9.

Francisco had been penalized on charges that he had verbally and physically assaulted Stevens during the interval of the Open final and had accused Stevens of being as "high as a kite on drugs". Stevens had later been cleared by the WPBSA of any suspicion of drug taking while participating in tournament play.

Rex Williams, the chairman of the WPBSA, said yesterday: "After recent correspondence between Silvino's lawyers and ourselves there may be *fresh evidence in the* case and we would like to have a look at it. What we are doing is to start from scratch and that is why we have acted in the way we have."

Dennis Taylor, who defeated Steve Davis 9-5 in the final of the Kit Kat Break for world champions tournament at Nottingham, will not be meeting his famous rival in the final of the Mercantile Credit Classic as they are in the same half the draw.

*In the last-16 stage, starting on* January 3, Davis is drawn against Peter Francisco, Silvino's nephew, and Taylor will meet Alex Higgins. Willie Thorne, last year's winner, was eliminated in the earlier rounds by Tony Jones, of Chesterfield.

DRAW: W Werbeniuk v D Mountjoy, N Foulds v J Campbell, E Hughes v J Johnson, C Thorburn v A Meo, S Davis v P Francisco, J White v M Gauvreau, A Knowles v R Williams, D Taylor v A Higgins.

BASKETBALL

## The leaders stumble on home courts

By Nicholas Harling

Nothing is certain, not even in basketball, a sport which has often been threatened with monopolies over the years in this country, but rarely had them. Just when it looked as if the Carlsberg League Championship was developing into a two-horse race, both the leading teams proceeded to lose at home over the weekend to clubs they were generally expected to overcome.

There was much in common with the two games. Both Team Polycell Kingston and Portsmouth held the early initiative only to be taken apart by the opposition's American guard.

Kingston, who the previous week had avenged an earlier league defeat against Portsmouth by beating them in the Prudential National Cup semi-final, came up against Bubba Jennings in his most inspired form for London Docklands Crystal Palace. For the first five minutes Innell prevented Jennings from scoring, but then the 23-year-old Texan cut loose, scoring 43 points, including seven shots worth three *points in his side's 125-115 win. He* even outscored his opposite number Bontrager, who contributed five three pointers among his 38 points.

In the absence of Davis, who had flown back to America after the death of his sister, Kingston had expected a lot more than they got from another of their big men, McNish, who allowed Seaman to dominate the boards for Palace. Times have certainly changed for Palace, once renowned for their defensive prowess. It was their fifth successive match in which both sides had scored over 100 points, the previous one being that in which they and Hemel/Watford Royals had participated in the league's highest ever scoring game, Palace winning 147-134.

Hemel recovered from that defeat on Wednesday to shatter Portsmouth's undefeated league record at the Mountbatten Centre, Nigel Lloyd doing most of the damage with 26 points, although nerves seemed to have got the better of him when with seven minutes left and Hemel's lead, 70-66, he missed two *free shots. Danny Palmer,* the Portsmouth coach had just incurred his third technical offence of the season for dissent but with Hemel also wasting their possession, it looked like another home win until Lloyd sank what proved to be the winning three-pointer with 85 seconds left.

Like Palmer, Art Ross, coach of Birmingham Ballets was also in trouble with an official, in his case the referee, Martin Lewis at Sunderland, 114-109 winners in another upset. Two technical offences against Ross, one for yelling back at the crowd, and against his assistant Colin Wood led to the coach's expulsion midway through the first half. Dykstra's 38 points for Sunderland were decisive.

The only top team to do themselves justice were Sharp Manchester United, who beat their city rivals, Giants 80-73 in an entertaining game in which both defences and Gardner (27 points) of United excelled.

Hemel's 82-79 victory was not bad for a team whose England international Sewell sat out the game with the ankle he had twisted at Palace. Hemel had developed a nasty habit of losing the close games. Now their target is a place at Wembley for the National Championship Play-offs in March.

In an eventful weekend, Uxbridge had Politi disqualified three minutes from the end of their 106-96 defeat at Sparrings Solent Stars, and the second division leaders, Derby were overwhelmed 111-98 at Calderdale who moved up from fourth to third, Tower Hamlets take over at the top.

Nor were the women content to let the men make all the news. Crystal Palace who suspended their star player Lin Boencke for failing to attend training sessions, still reached the National Cup final with their 71-67 success at Lowvolte Manchester.

More sport on page 20

## KEMPTON PARK — Ch4

*[Televised: 1.10, 1.40, 2.15, 2.45]*

Going: good

**12.40 PORT WINE NOVICE CHASE** (£2,625: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 105 | 1134-12 | STRATH LEADER (D) *Bars C Feldstein* J Edwards 7-11-8 | | P Tuck |
| 106 | 1P4-111 | THE ARGONAUT (D) Queen Mother P Waelwyn 7-11-8 | | S Shilston |
| 109 | 2p00-1P | TWO EAGLES (G Stahlberg) R Armytage 8-11-4 | | A Webber |
| 110 | 1/40-21 | VODKATINI (D) (D Richardson Racing) P Haynes 6-11-4 | | A Webb |
| 111 | 2-04541 | ASIRULLAH (T Thore) J Bridger 5-11-0 | | R Goldstein |
| 115 | 1200- | BOLANDS CROSS (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) N Gasselee 5-11-0 | | – |
| 122 | 1210-40 | SOME MACHINE (W O'Gorman) D Nicholson 6-11-0 | | P Scudamore |

1984: Galway 5-11-0 P Scudamore (7-2) D Nicholson 7 ran.

5-4 The Argonaut, 3 Bolands Cross, 4 Some Machine, 5 Vodkatini, 20 Two Eagles, 33 Asirullah.

*12.40 Race FORM: STRATH LEADER (11-8) 2lf 2nd to Arctic Stream (11-10) at Cheltenham (3m 1f, 24,675, soft, Dec 7, 6 ran) with SOME MACHINE (11-0) 2l back in 5th. THE ARGONAUT (11-7) beat Eldenspring (11-7) 2l at Towcester (2m 6f nov ch, 21,925, good to soft, Dec 14, 14 ran). TWO EAGLES fell in the race won by Fudge Delight last time; previously (10-12) beat Stolking (10-9) 5l at Southwell (2m nov ch, £700, good, Nov 25, 16 ran). Vodkatini (10-10) 5l beat Troop The Colour (10-10) 4l at Huntingdon (2m 4f nov ch, £1,292, good Dec 11, 12 ran). Bolands cross makes chasing debut here; best effort over timber last season when (10-11) 6l 2nd to Goosey Gander (10-0) at Sandown (2m 5f h'cap hdle, £3,061, good to soft, Dec 1, 17 ran).*

*Selection: THE ARGONAUT.*

### Kempton selections

By Mandarin

12.40 Bolards Cross. 1.10 ASSWAN (Nap). 1.40 First Bout. 2.15 Combs Ditch. 2.45 Mr Key. 3.15 I Haventalight.

By Michael Seely

2.15 Burrough Hill Lad. 2.45 MR KEY (nap).

**1.10 FOOD BROKERS—ARMOUR NOVICE HURDLE** (£3,891: 2m) (18)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 201 | 10 | BELFALAS LAD (Mrs R Morris) J Jenkins 4-11-7 | | – |
| 202 | 331 | CAVVIES CLOWN (Mrs J Ollivant) D Elsworth 5-11-7 | | – |
| 203 | 31 | CELTIC FLAME (Mrs G Godfrey) P Harris 4-11-7 | | R Strange |
| 204 | 1 | DOMINATE (D) *(Mrs S Williams)* P Mitchell 4-11-7 | | – |
| 205 | 14 | INSULAR (Queen Mother) I Balding 5-11-7 | | P Scudamore |
| 207 | – | ALDO KING (Mrs Viergiord) D Duggison 4-11-0 | | – |
| 208 | 2 | ASSWAN (BF) (Sultan Adham) J Francome 5-11-0 | | G Bradley |
| 209 | – | BROKEN WIND (N Henderson) N Henderson 5-11-0 | | J White |
| 212 | 4 | DETROIT SAM (BF) (D Wickins) R Akehurst 4-11-0 | | B De Haan |
| 213 | 0 | JOLI WASP (D Nabb) M Haynes 4-11-0 | | R G Hughes |
| 221 | 0 | MOONDAWN (M Bell) D Elsworth 4-11-0 | | C Brown |
| 223 | 00 | ONE FOR MAMMY (C Roach) C Roach 4-11-0 | | B Wright |
| 224 | 02 | OPPIDAN (Mrs C Heath) O Sherwood 5-11-0 | | S Sherwood |
| 231 | 0 | TEMPLYN (Lady Harris) A Jarvis 5-11-0 | | K Burke |
| 232 | – | TORY HILL LAD (Mrs P Ford) J Fox 5-11-0 | | S Shore |
| 233 | – | TRAPEZE ARTIST (Intrepid Holdings Ltd) N Vigors 4-11-0 | | – |
| 234 | 0p- | WALLOP (Mrs Hibbitt) D Gillespell 5-11-0 | | R Goldstein |
| 235 | 0 | WELSH CONSORT (G Johnson) N Henderson 5-11-0 | | S Smith Eccles |

1984: The Hacienderos 5-11-7 Mr D Murphy (Evens fav) D Thom 8 ran.

5-2 Dominate, 3 Insular, 6 Asswan, 8 Oppidan, Trapeze Artist, 10 Aldo King, 12 Broken Wind.

*FORM: CAVVIES CLOWN (11-0) beat Marsh King (11-10) ½l at Devon (2m 1f nov hdle, £618, 16 ran). CELTIC FLAME (11-0) beat Timely Star (11-0) short head at Huntingdon (2m 1f nov hdle, £2,535, good Dec 11, 22 ran). DOMINATE (11-0) 3l at Ascot (2m nov hdle, £2,408, firm, Nov 15, 7 ran). INSULAR (10-0) 9½l 4th to First Bout (11-5) at Ascot (2m hdle, £4,811, good, Dec 14, 7 ran). ASSWAN (11-0) head 2nd to Clearly Bust (11-10) at Southwell (2m nov hdle, £662, soft, Dec 12, 13 ran). OPPIDAN (11-0) 10l 2nd to Midnight Count (11-0) at Cheltenham (2m 4f nov hdle, £1,834, soft, Dec 5, 21 ran). Selection: INSULAR.*

**1.40 LADBROKE CHRISTMAS HURDLE** (Grade I: £15,920: 2m) (10)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 301 | 046612- | ANYTHING ELSE (D) (G Darby) J Fox 4-11-3 | | S Moore |
| 302 | 0710/0 | AONOCH (D) (Miss S Oliver) Mrs S Oliver 5-11-3 | | Miss S Oliver |
| 303 | 1- | ASIR (W Hicks) P Kelleway 5-11-3 | | R Beggan |
| 304 | 1-41111 | DESERT ORCHID (CD) (R Burridge) D Elsworth 8-11-3 | | C Brown |
| 305 | 111-1 | FIRST BOUT (D) (W Shoiber) N Henderson 4-11-3 | | S Smith Eccles |
| 307 | 1244-13 | GAYE BRIEF (D) (BF) (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) Mrs M Rimell 8-11-3 | | B De Haan |
| 308 | 228-232 | JANUS (CD) (BF) (K Little) Mrs N Smith 7-11-3 | | S Shilston |
| 309 | 0122-32 | KESSLER (J Tudor) N Vigors 5-11-3 | | J White |
| 310 | 240-910 | PRIDEAUX BOY (D) (BF) (C Roach) C Roach 7-11-3 | | B Wright |
| 311 | 0102p-0 | RA NOVA (CD) (Lady Matthews) I Matthews 6-11-3 | | – |

1984: Browne's Gazette 6-11-3 D Browne (11-8 fav) Mrs M Dickinson 7 ran.

5-2 First Bout, 7-2 Desert Orchid, 9-2 Asir, 11-2 Kessler, Gaye Brief, 12 Ra Nova, 14 Aonoch.

*FORM: (11-7) beat Silver Gold (11-2) 8l at Cheltenham Festival (2m 4f nov hdle, £2,3940, Mar 13, 27 ran.) DESERT ORCHID has been crashing this season; in corresponding race last year (11-3) 15l 2nd to Browne's Gazette (11-3) (2m hdle, £15,572, good to soft, Dec 28, 7 ran). FIRST BOUT (11-8) beat Southernair (11-4) 3l at Ascot (2m hdla, £4,511, good, Dec 14, 7 ran). KESSLER (10-12) 2l 2nd to Corporal Clinger (11-2) at Cheltenham (2m hdle, £9,920, soft, Dec 7, 9 ran). with GAYE BRIEF (11-10) 2½l further back in 3rd and AONOCH (11-10) another 4½l adrift in 6th. RA NOVA beat form last season when (11-10) beat JANUS 2½l at Windsor (2m hdle, £5,942, good to soft, Jan 1, 8 ran). Selection: GAYE BRIEF.*

**2.15 KING GEORGE VI CHASE** (Grade I: £24,836: 3m) (8)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 401 | 1025-13 | ACARINE (CD) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 9-11-10 | | R Strange |
| 402 | 1114-13 | BURROUGH HILL LAD (CD) (R Riley) Mrs J Feman 9-11-10 | | P Tuck |
| 403 | 12209-1 | COMBS DITCH (B) (R Tory) D Elsworth 9-11-10 | | C Brown |
| 404 | 1132-31 | EARLS BRIG (D) (W Hamilton) W Hamilton 10-11-10 | | T G Dun |
| 405 | 1303-14 | HALF FREE (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) F Winter 9-11-10 | | B De Haan |
| 407 | 44-3p3 | ROCKFIELD BOY (N Goymer) S Woodman 8-11-10 | | – |
| 408 | 12-1026 | THE TSAREVICH (CD) (Mrs C Hardy) N Henderson 9-11-10 | | J White |
| 409 | 01-1u32 | WAYWARD LAD (CD) (Mrs S Thewlis) Mrs M Dickinson 10-11-10 | | G Bradley |

1984: Burrough Hill Lad 8-11-10 J Francome (1-2 fav) Mrs J Pitman 3 ran.

6-4 Burrough Hill Lad, 5-2 Combs Ditch, 6 Earls Brig, 7 Half Free, 8 Wayward Lad, 25 The Tsarevich, 33 Acarine, 200 Rockfield Boy.

*FORM: ACARINE (11-10) just over 6l 3rd to Bright Dream (10-1) at Wetherby (3m h'cap ch, £9,850, good to soft, Dec 7, 12 ran). BURROUGH HILL LAD (12-7) 11l 3rd to Desert Orchid (10-2), with THE TSAREVICH (10-7) 2 neck away 7th at Ascot (2m 1f h'cap, £12,505, Dec 14, 6 ran). In this event last year, BURROUGH HILL LAD (12-0) beat COMBS DITCH (12-0) a short head with WAYWARD LAD (12-0) well beaten last of 3 (3m ch, £28,466, good to soft, Dec 25). COMBS DITCH (11-8) on seasonal debut easy 7l scorer from Final Argument (10-11) with HALF FREE (11-12) a further 5½l back in 4th at Cheltenham (2m 4f h'cap ch, £12,224, soft, Dec 7, 7 ran), previously, HALF FREE (11-10) got up to beat Newtle Connection (10-2) a head, with THE TSAREVICH (11-10) back in 7th in the Mackeson at Cheltenham (2m 4f h'cap ch, £14,564, good to firm, Nov 9, 10 ran). EARLS BRIG (10-12) ran on close home to beat WAYWARD LAD (11-5) 1¼l at Haydock (3m ch, £5,867, soft, Dec 11, 4 ran). On the outing last season, WAYWARD LAD (11-5) won 3l from EARLS BRIG (11-8), with HALF FREE (11-5) ¾l back in 3rd and COMBS DITCH (11-8) another 12l further away in 5th at Liverpool (3m 1f ch, £7,180, good, Mar 25, 6 ran).*

*Selection: BURROUGH HILL LAD.*

**2.45 BOXING DAY HANDICAP HURDLE** (£3,376: 2m) (12)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 504 | 12-2142 | DHOFAR (D) (Lt Col E Harriss) G Pritchard-Gordon 5-11-7 | | S Smith Eccles |
| 505 | 1003-11 | LAMHYDROCK (D) (S Naylor) O Sherwood 4-11-4 | | S Sherwood |
| 507 | 2061-02 | BETTYKNOWES (D) (J Boone) R Akehurst 7-11-2 | | C Brown |
| 509 | 3-00009 | BUTLERS PET (D) (BF) (Mrs J Hicks) T Hallett 8-10-13 | | B Wright |
| 511 | 2432-41 | TANCRED WALK (D) (K Mellis) C Jackson 6-10-11 (8 ex) | | R Strange |
| 513 | 40p011 | TRY TO REMEMBER (D) (D Price) R Holder 5-10-8 | | – |
| 514 | 012121 | YANIS (D) (K Al-Said) J Edwards 5-10-8 (4 ex) | | P Scudamore |
| 516 | 2114-04 | MR KEY (D) (Mrs McMorrow) P Haynes 4-10-5 (4 ex) | | A Webb |
| 518 | p11-0 | INLANDER (D) (BF) (J Daniels) J Davies 4-10-5 | | J Lovejoy |
| 520 | 0218-00 | SUPER GRASS (B) (D) (Mrs M Michael) S Mellor 5-10-1 | | G Landau 7 |
| 521 | 00012-2 | THE TARIANS (Mrs S Curley) B Curley 6-10-0 | | D Murphy 4 |
| 524 | 0p11/p0 | SHAMLAN (D) (Mrs S Pattemore) S Pattemore 5-10-0 | | – |

1984: Indamelody 8-11-7 J Francome (5-4 fav) N Henderson 8 ran.

3 Lamhydrock, 7-2 Mr Key, 5-2 Tancred Walk, 6 Yabla, 8 Dhofar, 12 Bettyknowes, Inlander, 16 others.

*FORM: DHOFAR (10-8) ¾l 2nd to Chrysaor (10-8) with BUTLERS PET (10-1) 5l 5th of 12 (Sandown, 2m H'cap hdle, £11,637, good, Nov 30). LANDHYDROCK (10-4) unchallenged 7l Worcester winner from Seagram (11-2). TANCRED WALK (10-10) 11l away 4th and BUTLERS PET (10-13) 11th (2m 2f H'cap Hdle, £4,747, good, Nov 20, 19 ran). Last time TANCRED WALK (10-1) beat Peter Martin (10-8) 4l at Wetherby (2m H'cap hdle, £5,103, good to soft, Dec 7, 14 ran). BETTYKNOWES (11-10) 7l 2nd to Hypaste (11-4) over course and distance (£1,719, good, Nov 21, 9 ran). YANIS (11-8) beat Rogue Nicholas (11-5) 10l at Sandown (2m Nov H'cap Hdle, £2,443, good to firm, Nov 22, 11 ran). MR KEY (10-12) comfortable 15l Plumpton winner from Pip (10-3). INLANDER (11-0) 8l away 5th (2m H'cap Hdle), £1,316, soft, Dec 10, 10 ran). THE TARIANS (11-3) 4l Catterick runner-up to Pearl Run (10-11) (2m H'cap Hdle, £1,557, soft, Dec 13, 26 ran).*

*Selection: MR KEY*

**3.15 FALKLANDS HANDICAP CHASE** (£2,578: 3m) (9)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 601 | 04p-113 | EVERETT (CD) (BF) (K Hennessy) F Wahwyn 10-12-7 | | S Shilston |
| 603 | 1p40-11 | GREENWOOD LAD (CD) (Mrs A Grantham) J Gifford 8-11-8 | | Mr T Grantham 4 |
| 604 | 22p-p4 | ARDENT SPY (D) (G Taylor) R Armytage 8-11-5 | | A Webber |
| 605 | p0-2110 | DUKE OF MILAN (CD) (R Morris-Adams) N Gasselee 8-11-1 | | S Smith Eccles |
| 606 | 512124/ | PLUNDERING (Mrs M Valentine) F Winter 8-11-0 | | B De Haan |
| 607 | 112-222 | CHARTER PARTY (D) (BF) (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 7-10-11 | | P Scudamore |
| 608 | 121-351 | I HAVENTALIGHT (D) (B Bazalgette) F Winter 5-10-11 | | S Sherwood |
| 611 | 033125- | LITTLE POLVAIR (D) (M Shone) J Edwards 8-10-1 | | P Tuck |
| 615 | 421-24p | MERRIDGE (BF) (P Dufosee) P Dufosee 10-10-0 | | – |

1984: Acarine 8-11-1 R Strange (7-4 fav) P W Harris 5 ran.

3 I Haventalight, 4 Everett, 5 Greenwood Lad, 6 Duke Of Milan, 7 Charter Party, 10 Plundering, 14 others.

*FORM: EVERETT (12-1) 6l, 3rd to Elanboy (11-1) at Cheltenham (3m H'cap Ch), earlier (11-10) beat DUKE OF MILAN (10-13) easy 20l. here (3m H'cap Ch, £5525, firm, Oct 19, 4 ran). DUKE OF MILAN (11-8) best subsequent effort 6l. win from Tom's Little Al (11-8) at Sandown (2m 4f H'cap, £5025, hard, Nov 2, 4 ran). GREENWOOD LAD (11-13) 3L scorer from Brown Trix (10-7) at Huntingdon (2m H'cap Ch, £2715, good, Nov 28, 3 ran). ARDENT SPY (10-7) 15l, 4th to Mount Venture (10-12) at Lingfield (2m H'cap Ch, £10468, good to soft, Dec 7, 7 ran). PLUNDERING last ran in 1984 Whitbread Gold Cup, un-placed 2l, 4th to Special Cargo (11-4) at Sandown (3m 5f H'cap, £25,472, firm, Apr 26, 15 ran). CHARTER PARTY (11-7) 10L 2nd to Broomy Bank (11-7) at Worcester (3m 5f H'cap Ch, £2590, soft, Dec 4, 3 ran). I HAVENTALIGHT (11-10) beat Shirlstar Buyabox (10-0) a neck at Newbury (3m H'cap Ch, £5775, good to firm, Nov 22, 9 ran).*

*Selection: GREENWOOD LAD*

## WOLVERHAMPTON

GOING: good to firm (chase course); good, hurdles

**12.45 NETHERTON HANDICAP HURDLE** (4-y-o: £1,184: 2m) (15 runners)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0021 | PEARL RUN (D) G Price 11-12 (10 ex) | | P Warner |
| 3 | 1-300 | IT'M FOR GALA (BLD) S Kingsley 11-9 | | – |
| 9 | 0001 | ORBITAL MANOEUVRES B McMahon 10-11 (10 ex) | | T Wall |
| 10 | 0-50r | LITTLE BEAVER D Nicholson 10-8 | | – |
| 11 | 1p-09 | MIAMI HOLIDAY (D) M Castrell 10-7 | | K Traylor 7 |
| 12 | 1p-0r | ALETIS Mrs A Finch 10-7 | | R Hyett |
| 13 | 4-062 | MEESON GRANGE F Jordan 10-5 | | – |
| 15 | 000-0 | MISTER FEATHERS J King 10-2 | | – |
| 16 | 40-40 | GO ASIN GO T Bailey 10-0 | | – |
| 18 | 000- | SHARED EXPERIENCE G Balding 10-0 | | R Chapman 4 |
| 19 | 60-00 | DARK COMIC J King 10-0 | | – |
| 20 | 000-0 | BLUE SPARKLE J Old 10-0 | | – |
| 22 | 00-01 | STREET LEVEL (D) H O'Neill 10-0 | | S McCrystal 7 |
| 23 | 00-00 | MISK W Clay 10-0 | | S J O'Neill |
| 24 | 0400- | SPACE GEM W Wilston 10-0 | | P Miller 7 |

1984: Our White Hart 11-1 J White (4-1 fav) N Vigors 15 ran

11-4 Pearl Run, 4 Orbital Manoeuvres, 11-2 Meeson Grange, 7 Street Level, K'm For Gala, 10 Little Beaver, Aletis, 12 others.

### Wolverhampton selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Pearl Run. 1.15 Royscript. 1.45 Just For The Crack. 2.15 Bob Tisdall. 2.45 Oryx Minor. 3.15 Spot The Patch.

**1.15 OLDBURY [illegible] CHASE** (£1,498: 3m 1f) (6)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 1p-44 | NOTRE CHEVAL S Mellor 8-11-10 | | G Charles Jones |
| 7 | 2-233 | ROYSCRIPT J Clupp 9-11-3 | | C Smith |
| 8 | 4113- | ARAPAHO PRINCE (D) J Edwards 6-11-0 | | P Barton |
| 10 | 6331 | SMALL MONEY Mrs W Sykes 8-10-5 (5 ex) | | P Warner |
| 14 | b042 | FINAL CLEAR J Old 7-10-0 | | – |
| 16 | 00p0/ | MAT Mrs S Oliver 8-10-0 | | J Stathers |

1984: Run And Skip 8-12-1 S Morshead (7-4 fav) J Spearing 7 ran

13-8 Royscript, 100-30 Arapaho Prince, 5 Small Money, 6 Notre Cheval, 8 Final Clear, 33 Mat.

**1.45 HARRY BROWN CHALLENGE CUP** (handicap chase: £4,240: 2m 4f) (3)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 00-14 | CARVED OPAL (D) F Winter 7-11-7 | | Mr C Brooks 7 |
| 7 | 11/0u | JUST FOR THE CRACK (D) K Bailey 7-10-13 | | – |
| 24 | 65fp- | CHARLEY FISHER (D) J Cosgrave 10-10-0 | | M Babbage |

1984: The Tsarevich 9-11-12 J White (16-1) N Henderson 8 ran

2-7 Carved Opal, 3 Charley Fisher, 10 Just For The Crack.

**2.15 DEEPFIELDS NOVICE CHASE** (£1,381: 2m) (14)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 150-0 | BOB TISDALL J Edwards 5-10-12 | | P Barton |
| 9 | 0-1p41 | FELL CLIMB P Bailey 5-10-12 | | S FitzGerald 7 |
| 21 | 000-0 | HOPWAS B McMahon 5-10-12 | | T Wall |
| 23 | 0/330 | KING JO Mrs M Rimell 5-10-12 | | J Bryan |
| 14 | -0r00 | MATCH MASTER H O'Neill 5-10-12 | | – |
| 18 | 0-44 | OFFICIAL DRESS M Oliver 5-10-12 | | J D Doyle 4 |
| 17 | 32/1- | PEARLYMAN J Edwards 5-10-12 | | P Barton |
| 20 | 3-4p54 | PRUDENT MATCH H O'Neill 5-10-12 | | – |
| 21 | p-000 | QUEENSWAY BOY Miss A Kiley 5-10-12 | | C Smith |
| 22 | 00-0p | SPERRANS Mrs W Sykes 5-10-12 | | P Warner |
| 25 | 6/4-u | WLOW MY TOP R Holder 6-10-7 | | – |
| 26 | 324u | LITTLE GINGER B McMahon 8-10-7 | | – |
| 29 | 05-b | REGENT'S NIECE E H Owen jnr 5-10-7 | | – |
| 31 | /p-pp | WHOM KNOWS Mrs J Evans 8-10-7 | | – |

1984: Silva Linda 6-11-0 D N Fearn (11-4 fav) F Winter 10 ran

7-4 Pearlyman, 11-4 King Jo, 4 Bob Tisdall, 6 Sperrans, 8 Fell Climb,

**2.45 WALSALL HANDICAP HURDLE** (£1,410: 2m) (20)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 60-50 | STAR OF SCREEN (C,D) J Edwards 5-12-7 | | P Barton |
| 3 | 3631/ | NIMBLE DOVE G Price 9-12-0 | | P Warner |
| 7 | 0000 | FORTOLD (D) P Bailey 7-11-8 | | S FitzGerald 7 |
| 10 | 03p-0 | HOMEOLA (D) Mrs M Rimell 6-11-0 | | J Bryan |
| 12 | 6-003 | STAR OF A GUNNER R Holder 5-10-10 | | – |
| 16 | 264-0 | CELTIC HONEY (D) G Kingsley 5-10-10 | | – |
| 17 | 21-20 | ORYX MINOR (D) (BF) S Mellor 5-10-10 | | G Charles Jones |
| 20 | 0000 | SUPPER'S READY W G Morris 7-10-8 | | W Morris |
| 22 | 60-p | BROCK HILL (C,D) C F C Jackson 9-10-7 | | Mr M Low 4 |
| 24 | 32/0- | REDBURY (C,D) T Brown 6-10-5 | | J Brown 7 |
| 25 | 20p3 | YORK COTTAGE (D) C Hitchings 6-10-5 | | R Hyett |
| 26 | 0621 | PEROVSKIA (D) Mrs W Sykes 5-10-5 | | P Warner |
| 28 | 6/01- | PURPLE FLASH (D) D Ringer 5-10-3 | | S McNeil |
| 29 | 14-21 | SEASON'S DELIGHT (D) R Holder 8-10-2 | | – |
| 30 | 64p0- | WALHAN (C,) M W Eckley 5-10-2 | | A O'Hagan |
| 34 | 10/00 | SAINT DURASSOFF (D) J Spearing 8-10-0 | | – |
| 35 | /0-66 | TURTLETON (D) K Bailey 10-10-0 | | – |
| 36 | 3434 | APPLANTE (D) R Armytage 10-10-0 | | M Armytage 7 |
| 37 | 02-p0 | MISS MALDROMAN (C,D) W Clay 5-10-0 | | S J O'Neill |
| 38 | 0000 | VAL CLIMBER (D) M Castrell 7-10-0 | | K Traylor 7 |

1984: Bold Illusion 6-10-8 W Morris (11-10 fav) M Eckley 11 ran

8 Star Of A Gunner, 4 Oryx Minor, 5 Seasons Delight, 13-2 Homeola, 8 Star Of Screen, 10 Perovskia, 12 Applante, Brobury, 16 others.

**3.15 WREKIN NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE** (£714: 2m 4f) (17)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | p-03p | UTOPIAN G Rce 7-11-7 | | Mr C Brooks 7 |
| 4 | 20-41 | JAM

هكذا من الأصل



TENNIS: SWEDISH CAPTAIN PRAISES SUPPORT FOR FRONT-LINE TROOPS



Sweden's supreme court (from left): Wilander, Olsson, Nystrom and Edberg

# Now the 'new Australians' aim for Davis Cup treble

*From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Munich*

It was very much the morning after the night before. An exhilarating Davis Cup triumph over West Germany was only 12 hours behind the sleepy, blear-eyed Swedes when they strolled into the lounge at Munich airport yesterday. They had been celebrating, and Swedes do that rather well.

Bud Collins, the sage of American tennis writing, looked at them and smiled. "These guys", he said gratefully, "are the new Australians".

Collins meant that the young heroes who dominate world tennis are fine players, exemplary sportsmen and rivals yet friends, forming a closely knit *mutual aid society who have* fun together. Most of them come from a province renowned for people who work hard without making a fuss – and never give in. Hans Olsson, who is lucky enough to captain these good companions, said their Davis Cup win had been a team effort in which other leading Swedes had come along to practise with the frontline troops and serve as a support group.

Olsson has the thoughtful, doleful mien of a basset hound. But there was a hint of a smile when someone made a joking reference to the fact that, earlier this year, candidates for the American team were asked to sign an undertaking that they would behave themselves if chosen for the Davis Cup team. Had he considered a similar idea? That was when Olsson's face twitched with amusement: "*These guys*", he said, "don't even need an umpire".

Sweden have won the trophy two years running. Olsson reckons they can make it three because they have so many good players who work together on the practice court. This year's success means more to him than last year's because, instead of playing at home, the Swedes have been palying away on surfaces chosen by their opponents.

Olsson expects Germany to reach the final again in 1986. He was too polite even to hint that at this level of competition Germany are essentially a one-*man team, with no other player* approaching the class of Boris Becker. The remarkable Becker, aged 18, rounded off his first season of Davis Cup competition with over whelming singles performances against Stefan Edberg and Mats Wilander. In the doubles Becker was less impressive and lacked the experience to give much psychological help to Andreas Maurer, who often looked out of his depth.

Germany's second singles player, Michael Westphal, had the unusual frustration of serving 41 aces yet winning only one set out of seven. That says much for the quality of the opposition and also suggests that, except for his service, Westphal falls some way short of star status. But he gave everything he had during an inspired performance that tested Edberg's nerves to the limit in the deciding singles.

It is a testimony to the depth of Sweden's resources that their "reserve" doubles pair, Wilander and Joakim Nystrom, swiftly crushed Becker and Maurer. After the match Becker announced that for a week he had been having treatment on a troublesome hip. Australian types do not talk about things like that. Next day Becker waded into Wilander like a tornado and the Swede could not resist a gentle dig. Wilander said he wished he had been able to return Becker's service as well as Nystrom does. "I was outgunned. I didn't have a chance. I just hope his hip didn't bother him too much. . ."

Anyway, Becker, and eventually Westphal, made this a memorably thrilling occasion. Thanks to ticket sales and the astute marketing negotiations of Becker's manager, Ion Tiriac, the German federation also made a handsome profit.

It is estimated that ticket sales and Tiriac's marketing raised about £1,220,000 before tax and expenses. The ultimate profit from the final should be about £340,000. Germany's three previous home ties made £314,000 (before tax but after the deduction of expenses) and the combined ultimate profit from all four ties should be closed to £500,000.

As a last financial note the *competition's sponsors*, the NEC Corporation of Japan, are raising the prize money by roughly £38,000 to a 1986 total of £835,000. The money in modern tennis is slightly alarming but "the new Australians" prove that the game's finest *traditions can survive* the assault from big business.

# Olympic door to open wider

From Richard Evans
*Munich*

It is now highly probable that a multi-millionaire professional, such as John McEnroe, Boris Becker or Mats Wilander, will win a gold *medal at the Seoul Olympic Games* in 1988.

Their presence will, if nothing else, establish the right of the professional athlete to become a fully accepted member of the *Olympic family and lead the Games* into a new era of pragmatism and commonsense.

*This appears to be the goal of* Juan Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), *with whom I spoke* during the Davis Cup final in Munich. Two weeks earlier, in Melbourne, Philippe Chatrier, the president of the International Tennis Federation (ITF), had intimated that any professional tennis player who was in good standing with his national association would "in all probability" be allowed to compete in Seoul.

Samaranch, who has his world-wide constituents, to worry about, would not offer any promises on that score, but he did make his feelings perfectly plain: "We want the best athletes and the best players from their various sports to compete in the Olyapics," Samaranch told me.

"The word 'amateur' went out of the Olympic Charter in 1973. It is no longer relevant. As long and no one *is paid to compete in the* Olympics, I want to see them there. Tennis was saved by Wimbledon's *decision to go it alone in 1968. The* same principles as Wimbledon laid down then must apply to the *Olympics. However, it may take a* little time because some people are still living in the 1920s."

*Samaranch cited the difference in* interpretation of the word "amateur" *that exists between western and eastern bloc countries as a* source of damage and embarrassment to the Olympic movement. *"The eastern countries run a* completely different programme for the athletes they call amateurs", *Samaranch explained.* "Their athletes train all the time. This creates an imbalance that will be removed."

*The Spanish president of the IOC* was speaking just before Stefan Edberg took the court at the *Olympiahalle to ensure that Sweden* retained the Davis Cup. He would have needed no reminding that it was Edberg who won the unofficial gold medal in Los Angeles when tennis made a furtive re-appearance at the Games as an exhibition sport 18 months ago.

Age was used as a criteria then, but if the under-21 limit is lifted, as Chatrier suggests, Edberg will be as keen to retain his title as his fellow Swedes will be to take it from him.

McEnroe, a fervent patriot, will also be attracted by the idea of representing the United States at the Olympics, provided he is still playing seriously in 1988, and sheer weight of public opinion will propel Becker into the Olympic arena on behalf of West Germany.

But no matter how deeply one tries to gaze into the crystal ball, the far-sighted and modernistic attitude of Samaranch and the equally visionary Chatrier will make the issue of amateurs and professionals about as relevant as a game between the Gentlemen and the Players at Lord's.

BOXING

# Doubt over McGuigan bout in US

By George Ace

A few weeks ago the only thing that appeared likely to prevent Barry McGuigan, the WBA feather-weight champion, from meeting the WBA junior lightweight champion, Wilfredo Gomez, was the possibility of a defeat by Fernando Soza.

The Argentinian, who meets McGuigan in Dublin on February 15, stands at No 2 in the WBC ratings, but of more significance is the fact that the ABC television network, who are screening the fight live to the United States, chose Soza from five possible opponents submitted to them by B. J. Eastwood, McGuigan's manager.

But Eastwood admitted yesterday that he now thinks the Gomez bout, pencilled in for the United States in mid-May next year, has passed McGuigan by. He said: "On my return from the WBA convention in Miami recently I was 99 per cent certain that McGuigan would meet Gomez for the junior lightweight title. But the deal had to be clinched within seven days and I was unable, for a variety of reasons, to comply with that deadline.

"I have since received a telephone call from America informing me that the television network prepared to screen the fight live have made alternative arrangements and the syndicate who were going to promote the contest were left with no alternative but to scrap their plans.

"With the television companies in the United States all pruning their budgets for 1986 by at least 50 per cent, and some even more, in anticipateo considerable difficulties in coming up with a fight with the right kind of appeal. They want fights like the Hagler-Hearns and Leonard-Duran contests, and those kind of confrontations, with their instant appeal, don't come around too often.

"It's unfortunate, but that's the way it stands. I think the possibility of McGuigan meeting Gomez is now rather remote."

Meanwhile, Eastwood is convinced that he has a real bout on his hands when Herol Graham, the Sheffield-based British middle-weight champion, meets Ayub Kalule for the European title, which Kalule retained in Italy on a split decision against Sumeu Kalanbay last Thursday.

"It was a terrific fight," Eastwood said on his return from Acona.

"Kalule never stopped taking the fight to the Italian champion and Graham will have to box out of his skin to beat this guy. The stakes are high, for the winner is almost certain to get a world title fight before the end of next year."

HOCKEY

# Lancashire tighten up midfield

By Sydney Friskin

The traditional Boxing Day *match between Cheshire and* Lancashire has a new format this year and will be played at three levels – senior, junior and veteran. The county with the best overall result will receive a trophy donated jointly by Hesketh Hughes, the Cheshire president, and Bill Ball, chairman of Bowdon.

When the teams met in the county championship, Lancashire won 1-0 and, as they are determined not to give much away in midfield, they have brought in the experienced Renshaw at left link in place of Lait. Most of Cheshire's regular players are available but to strengthen their attack they have included Ferns, from the England under-21 squad, at inside left.

The veterans will play at Brooklands and the juniors and seniors at Bowdon. The matches are sponsored by Manchester Contract Cleaners.

Tradition also dies hard in the southern division, where the annual match between the Cheam President's XI and the club's First XI takes place. Tony Bennett, the Cheam president, attempts to make sure of another win by including in his side six members of the Surrey team that recently beat Devon 1-0 in the county championship final – Rogers (goalkeeper), Pinks, Marchant, Reay-Jones, Diamond and Oddy.

## BOXING DAY FIXTURES

3.0 unless stated

**First division**

Birmingham v Nottm Forest
Chelsea v QP Rangers
Coventry v Ipswich
Everton v Man Utd
Leicester v Aston Villa (11.30)
Man City v Liverpool (2.0)
Oxford Utd v Southampton
Sheffield Wed v Newcastle (1.0)
Tottenham v West Ham (11.30)
Watford v Arsenal (12.0)
West Brom v Luton

**Second division**

Blackburn v Leeds
Carlisle v Middlesbrough
C Palace v Wimbledon (11.30)
Huddersfield v Barnsley
Hull v Grimsby
Millwall v Fulham (11.0)
Norwich v Charlton
Oldham v Bradford City (11.15)
Portsmouth v Brighton
Shrewsbury v Stoke (11.30)
Sunderland v Sheffield Utd

**Third division**

Blackpool v Bolton (2.0)
Bournemouth v Reading (12.0)
Bristol City v Plymouth (11.30)
Bury v Newport (3.15)
Cardiff v Swansea (11.0)
Chesterfield v Lincoln
Darlington v Rotherham
Derby v Walsall
Gillingham v Brentford
Notts County v Wolverhampton
Wigan v Bristol Rovers
York v Doncaster

**Fourth division**

Aldershot v Swindon (11.0)
Cambridge Utd v Chester
Colchester v Peterborough (11.30)
Exeter v Torquay (11.0)
Halifax v Rochdale (11.0)
Mansfield v Stockport (11.30)
Orient v Hereford
Port Vale v Crewe
Scunthorpe v Hartlepool
Trantmere v Burnley (3.15)
Wrexham v Preston. 11.00

GOLA LEAGUE: Barrow v Altrincham; Boston v Kettering (11.15); Dagenham v Weststone (11.0); Enfield v Barnet (11.0); Frickley v Scarborough (11.15); Kidderminster v Chelmsford (11.0); Maidstone v Dartford (11.0); Nuneaton v Wycombe; Runcorn v Northwich; Telford v Stafford; Weymouth v Bath.

VAUXHALL-OPEL LEAGUE: Premier division: Billericay v Barking (11.0); Bishop's Stortford v Hitchin; Farnborough v Epsom & Ewell; Harrow v Hendon (11.30); Sutton United v Kingstonian (11.0); Tooting & Mitcham v Dulwich Hamlet (11.0); Walthamstow Avenue v Hayes (11.15); Windsor & Eton v Slough (11.0); Wokingham v Yeovil; Worthing v Bognor Regis. First division: Boreham Wood v Finchley (11.0); Bromley v Grays (11.30); Hornchurch v Aveley (11.0); Lewes v Leatherhead; Leyton-Wingate v Leytonstone/Ilford (11.0); Oxford City v Chesham (11.0); St Albans v Harlow (11.0); Staines v Maidenhead United (11.30); Tilbury v Basildon (11.0); Uxbridge v Wembley; Walton & Hersham v Hampton (11.30). Second division: North: Chalfont St Peter v Tring (11.0); Chesham v Vauxhall Motors; Harefield v Kingsbury; Hemel Hempstead v Berkhamsted (11.0); Heybridge Swifts v Haringey Borough (11.0); Letchworth v Stevenage Borough (11.0); Rainham v Clapton (11.30); Saffron Walden v Royston (11.0); Ware v Hertford (11.0); Wolverton v Barton (11.0). South: Egham v Woking (11.0); Horsham v Dorking (11.30); Hungerford v Newbury; Leatherhead v Camberley Heath (11.0); Metropolitan Police v Molesey (11.30); Petersfield v Camberley; Ruislip Manor v Feltham; Southall v Bracknell (11.0); Southwick v Eastbourne United (11.0); Whyteleafe v Banstead (11.0).

MULTIPART LEAGUE: Bangor City v Caernarfon (2.0); Buxton v Matlock; Chorley v Horwich; Gainsborough v Worksop (11.15); Gresshead v Workington; Marine v Rhyl; Morecambe v Goole; Moseley v Hyde; Oswestry v Burton; Southport v South Liverpool (3.15); Witton v Macclesfield.

SHERPOINT BRITISH LEAGUE: Ards v Ballymena; Carrick v Glentoran; Coleraine v Larne; Crusaders v Glenavon; Linfield v Bangor; Newry v Distillery; Portadown v Clifonville.

SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE (11.0): First division: Burgess Hill v Ringmer; Chichester v Portfield; Eastbourne Town v Hailsham; Lancing v Shoreham; Littlehampton v Arundel; Peacehaven & Telscombe v Whitehawk; Three Bridges v Horsham YMCA.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE (11.0): Burnham Ramblers v Maldon; Canvey Island v Bowers; Chelmsford v Halstead; East Thurrock v Brentwood; Eton Manor v East Ham; Sawbridgeworth v Stanstead; Witham v Coggeshall; Wivenhoe v Brightlingsea.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE (11.0): Premier divisions: Ash v Farnham; Chobham v Westfield; Cobham v BAe Weybridge; Cove v Frimley Green; Godalming v Cranleigh; Horley v Mersham; Malden Vale v Malden Town; Virginia Water v Chertsey.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premium division: Basingstoke v Aylesbury (11.00); Bedworth v Sheppshed (11.00); Corby v King's Lynn (11.00); Farnham v Gosport (11.30); Folkestone v Fisher; Gravesend v Chelmsford (11.00); Welling v Crawley (11.30); Willenhall v Dudley; Witney v RS Southampton (2.0); Worcester v Alvechurch (11.00).

Midland division: Bilston v Moor Green (11.00); Bridgnorth v Sutton Coldfield (11.00); Gloucester v Forest Green (11.00); Grantham v Hednesford; Leicester United v Coventry Sporting (10.45); Mile Oak v Leamington (11.00); Redditch v Bromsgrove (11.30); Stourbridge v Oldbury (11.00); VS Rugby v Banbury (11.00); Wellingborough v Rushden.

Southern division: Andover v Waterlooville; Burnam and Hillingdon v Ruislip; Corinthian v Chatham; Dorchester v Poole (11.30); Dunstable v Cambridge City (11.00); Erith and Belvedere v Canterbury (0); Salisbury v Trowbridge; Thamet v Dover (11.30); Tonbridge AFC v Shappey (11.00); Woodford v Ashford (11.30).

NENE GROUP UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ampthill v Wootton; Baldock v Stotold; Eynesbury v St Neots; Newport Pagnell v Buckingham; Long Buckby v Northampton Spencer; Rothwell v Desborough; Holbeach v Stamford.

GREAT MILLS WESTERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Bideford (2.30); Chippenham v Melksham (11.00); Clandown v Paulton (10.45); Clevedon v Weston-super-Mare; Dawlish v Exmouth (10.30); Frome v Bristol City Reserves (11.30); Mangotsfield v Bristol Manor Farm; Minehead v Taunton; Saltash v Liskeard (2.30); Torrington v Plymouth Argyls Reserves.

**RUGBY UNION**
**CLUB MATCHES**

Bath v Clifton
Bedford v Old Pauline
Birkenhead Park v Waterloo (2.30)
Bristol v Liverpool
Broughton Park v Sale (2.30)
Camborne v Redruth (2.45)
Coventry v Moseley
Cardiff v Pontypridd
Exeter v Torquay (2.30)
Ebbw Vale v Abertillery
Gloucester v Lydney
Henrick v Jed-Forest (2.15)
Kendal v Vale of Lune (2.15)
Launceston v Okehampton (11.0)
Llanelli v London Welsh
London Irish v Old Millhillians (2.30)
Maesteg v Bridgend
Melrose v Gala (2.15)
Neath v Aberavon
Newbridge v Tredegar
Newport v South Glamorgan Institute
Northampton v Saracens (3.30)
Northern v Gosport (2.15)
Nuneaton v Rugby (2.30)
Otley v Morley (2.15)
Pontypool v Cross Keys
Preston Grasshoppers v Fylde (2.15)
Royal High v Heriot's FP (2.15)
Selkirk v Kelso (2.15)
Sunderland v Durham (2.15)
Swansea v Glamorgan Wanderers
West Hartlepool v Hartlepool (2.30)

**RUGBY LEAGUE**

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford Northern v Halifax (3.30). Hull v Featherstone (11.0). Leeds v Dewsbury, Oldham v Widnes, Salford v Swinton, Wigan v St Helens, York v Hull K R (11.0).

SECOND DIVISION: Blackpool Borough v Carlisle (11.30). Bramley v Wakefield (11.30). Hunslet v Batley (3.30). Rochdale Hornets v Leigh, Whitehaven v Workington (3.30).

**HOCKEY**

FESTIVAL MATCHES: Cheshire v Lancashire; Veterans 1st Brooklands, 10.30; Juniors 1st Bowdon, 12.30; Seniors 1st Bowdon, 2.15). Cheam v Cheam President's XI (11.0).

● Two Northern Ireland players, McKee and Kirkwood, have dropped out of Great Britain's tour of the Middle East, starting on January 3, because of injury. Their places are taken by Guy Swayne (England) and Cowan (Scotland).

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COTTESLOE (S' 928 2252 CC (National Theatre's small and fortune). The building will be closed Dec 24 & 25. Thur 2.45 & 7.30, then Dec 26 & Jan 2. THE CHERRY ORCHARD, by Chekhov. Fri 7.30, then Dec 28 & 30 & Jan 3 & 4 THE ROAD TO MECCA.

CRITERION, 8, 930 3216, CC 379 6565, 379 6433, 741 9999, Grp Sales 836 3962. Eves. 8.00 mat. Thurs 2.30, Sat 5.30 and 8.30. No perf Dec 25.
"BRITISH FARCE AT ITS BEST" D. Mail
The Theatre of Comedy Company
BERNARD JEFFREY
CRIBBINS HOLLAND
BERNARD BRESSLAW
LINDA HELEN
HAYDEN GILL
PAUL JEAN
DARROW KELLY
RUN FOR YOUR WIFE!
Written and directed by
RAY COONEY

DONMAR WAREHOUSE 240 8230 CC 379 6565/6433. Eves 8.00. No perfs Dec 24, 25, 26 & Jan 1.
STEVEN BERKOFF returns with world premiere of Harry's Christmas & Tell Tale Heart. Until 18 January. Sale commences with no booking fees. New Year's Eve: FASCINATING AIDA/EIT & THE WIDOW/DANCE & EAR 11pm-3am. Tkts £10

DOMINION THEATRE "TIME" HOTLINES 01-580 9845 Box office 01-636 8636 (9 or 01-580 9662/3 24 hr 7 Day CC booking 01-836 2428. Grp sales 01-930 6123.
OPENS APRIL 1986
DAVE CLARK'S
TIME
THE MUSICAL
CLIFF RICHARD
AS "THE ROCK STAR"
THE BETRAYAL OF "AKASH" BY
LAURENCE OLIVIER

DUCHESS 'S' 836 8243/CC 240 9648 First Call: 24 Hrs 7 Day CC 240 7200
THE SLOANE RANGER REVUE
Eves 8.15. Fri & Sat 6.00 & 9.00.
"OKAY YAH, THAT'S BRILL!"
Standard.
7TH STUNNING WEEK
EXTRA MATINEE ON BOXING DAY AT 5.00.

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42ND STREET
WINNER OF ALL THE BEST MUSICAL AWARDS FOR 1984
BEST MUSICAL
Standard Drama Award
BEST MUSICAL
Laurence Olivier Award
BEST MUSICAL
Plays & Players
London Theatre Critics Award
Eves 8.00. Mats Wed 3.00. Sats 5.00 & 8.30. Closed Xmas Eve & Xmas day. Extra mat Tues Dec 26 at 3.00. Group Sales 01-930 6123.
Booking until July 1986.
BOX OFFICE OPEN
Mon-Sat 10am-8pm.

DUKE OF YORKS 836 5122 CC 836 9837/741 9999 Grp 930 6123. Eves 8 Mat Thurs 2.30 at 5 & 8.30.
2ND YEAR OF THE AWARD WINNING COMEDY HIT
STEPPING OUT
"TRIUMPH ON TAP" Eve Std
The Hit Comedy by Richard Harris
Directed by Julia McKenzie
COMEDY OF THE YEAR
Standard Drama Award 1984
"LAUGH YOURSELF SELLY" "I Out. "Had the audience yelling for more" D Mail. "Must surely take the town . . . Go NOW" D Tel. "Roars of approval" Times. "It's going to run, tap, tap, tap forever" N o W.

FORTUNE CC 01-836 2238/9 cc 240 7200 24hrs 7 day. Until 11 Jan. Mon. Tue. Fri and Sat 2.30pm. Wed. Thu 1.30 & 4.15pm. No perf 25 Dec)
DAY JONES
(TV's The Monkees) in
GODSPELL
Perfect Christmas family treat.

FORTUNE S CC 836 2238/2239, 741 9999 Evgs 8. Fri/Sat 6 & 8.40
COMEDY OF THE YEAR
Laurence Olivier Awards 1984
UP AND UNDER
By John Godber
"A WORD-PERFECT COMEDY" S Times. "Splendid. . . O Tel. "One of the funniest and least pretentious plays you are ever going to see. TOTALLY HYSTERICAL" Obs. "Scorchingly funny . . . persuading the audience to clap and cheer." S Tel. "A JOY", S Exp.

GARRICK S CC 01-836 4601 cc 379 6433 & cc 24 hr/7 day 240 7200. Grp Sales 930 6123. Dec Mats: No perf 25 Dec. 26 Dec 8pm. 27 & 28 Dec 5pm & 8pm.) Eves 8.0. Wed mat 3.0. Sat 6.0 and 8.0.
NO SEX PLEASE – WE'RE BRITISH

GLOBE CC 01-437 1592. First Call 24 Hr 7 Day CC 240 7200.
Andrew Lloyd Webber presents the COMEDY OF THE YEAR
Society of Theatre Award '83
DAISY PULLS IT OFF
by Denise Deegan
Directed by David Gilmore
Eves 8.0 Mats Wed 3.0 & Sat 4.0
"THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE HOOT & A SCREAM" Sunday Times
THE GREAT TIMES AWARD
OVER 1,000 PERFORMANCES
EXTRA MAT ON THU 26 DEC AT 4.00 PM

GREENWICH THEATRE 01-858 7755. Eves 7.45. Mat Sat 2.30. No perfs Dec 25, 26, 28. Dec 28 special mat at 5.30.
JUDY a musical play by Terry Wale. Remarkable . . . Lesley Maddie brings Garland to dramatic life "Obs" Glows with personal conviction "Standard".

HAMPSTEAD, 722 9301. Eves 8pm. Sat Mats 4.30pm. Theatre Closed Dec 24 & 25 ON THE EDGE by Guy Hibbert. "Lots of lively, assured concepts here" Gdn. "A soft heart & scrupulous production" F.T.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL Box office & CC 01-930 9832. cc hotline 741 9999. Group Sales 930 6123.
SUSANNAH DENIS YORK QUILLEY
in
"One of the more sophisticated whipsmarties of recent times" . . . pile the likes of Sandy Wilson" Tel.
BERNARD SLADE's
FATAL ATTRACTION
Directed by David Gilmore
Eves 7.30, Mats Weds 2.30, Sat 3.0.

HER MAJESTY'S 930 6606/930 6606 cc Hotline 741 9999 First Call 24 Hr 7 day CC bookings 240 7200. Group sales 930 6123. "A wonderful theatricality blissfully allowed to our seasonal thirst for adventure" D Mail.
DONALD SINDEN in
THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL
"A stunning adaption . . . an evening of . . . theatre magic" D Tel. "Superb comic performances" FT. "Just in time for Xmas, the spectacularly, tongue-in-chic melodrama" Mail On Sun.
Eves. 7.30. Mats Wed & Sat at 3.00.

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in CINDERELLA
with PAUL NICHOLAS
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FIRST CALL 24 HR 7 DAY
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Mon-Sat 10am-8pm.
First Night May 7

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 01-741 2311.
Today 2.30 & 6.30. Thurs. Fri. Sat. Mon 2.30 & 7.30. No perf Dec 25.
DRACULA
or Out For The Count
Dracula CC Hotline 01-741 8701
LYRIC STUDIO From 30 Dec THE 900 BOYS. Latecomers will not be admitted.

LYRIC THEATRE Shaftesbury Ave W1. 01-437 3686/7 01-434 1060 cc 01-434 1650 01-734 8166/7. First Call 24 hr 7 day cc bkg 240 7200.
BERYL JEAN-PIERRE
WOD AUMONT
SUE GEOFFREY
PHILLIPS BURRIDGE
& AMANDA WARING in
LERNER & LOEWE'S MUSICAL
GIGI
Directed by John Dexter
"Dripped with tumultuous applause" Daily Express
Evgs 7.30 Sats 5.0 & 8.15
OPEN SEASON
Grp Sales Box Office 01-930 6123
Also at the theatre
VANESSA REDGRAVE
FRANCES DE LA TOUR
JULIA PETER
SWIFT WHITE
and RACHEL KEMPSON in
CHEKHOV'S WOMEN
Directed by David Leveaux
For 2 performances only
On Sunday Dec 29 at 4.30 & 7.30

LYTTELTON 'S' 928 2252 CC (National Theatre's proscenium stage). The building will be closed Dec 24 & 25. Tour 2.30 (low price mat) & 7.45. Fri 7.45. Sat 2.15 (low price mat) & 7.45. Mon Jan 7 & 8. THE MISANTHROPE. Ends Dec 28.

MAYFAIR S CC 499 3033/741 9999 Mon-Thur 8.0. Fri/Sat 5.40 & 8.10.
THE BUSINESS OF MURDER
The Hit Thriller by Richard Harris
"The best thriller for years" S Mir. "An unashamed winner" S Exp. "A thriller that achieves it all. Sensational" Times. "The most ingenious mystery to have appeared in a long time" D Mail.
THE GREAT YEAR
OVER 2,000 PERFORMANCES
CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

MAYFAIR. 01-629 3037.
Until January 4.
Tuesday-Friday 2.0 & 4.0.
Wed & Sat 10.30, 2.0 & 4.0.
SOOTY'S XMAS SHOW

MERMAID THEATRE 01-236 5568 CC 741 9999. Group Sales 930 6123. Eves 7.30. Mats Thurs & Sat at 3.00. No Perfs Dec 24, 25, 26, 31 & Jan 1.
ADAM DAVID
FAITH de KEYSER
"BOTH BRILLIANT" G. Times
DOWN AN ALLEY
FILLED WITH CATS
"A DEFT, SUSPENSEFUL PLAY WITH MORE TWIST THAN A RACE A HANDS" Sunday Times. "PURELY ENTERTAINMENT OF A VERY HIGH ORDER" D Mail
Buy tickets at any Keith Prowse branch NO BOOKING FEE.

NATIONAL THEATRE, South Bank (The building will be closed Dec 24 & 25)
NATIONAL THEATRE COMPANY
See SEPARATE ENTRIES
UNDER OLIVIER/LYTTELTON/COTTESLOE
Excellent cheap meals day of perf all theatres from 10am.
RESTAURANT (928 2033)
CHEAP EASY CAR PARK.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 01 405 0072 CC 01 379 6433 Eves 7.45 Tue 3.0 & 7.45.
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/T. S. ELIOT MUSICAL
CATS
Group Bookings 01 405 1567 or 01 930 6123 (Apply daily to Box Office for returns). Special supper shows now being scripted from Feb 3 to May 31 '86.
TUESDAY MATINEES IN JANUARY AVAILABLE CODE7 ACT BOX OFFICE
PLEASE NOTE THE THEATRE AND BOX OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 5 PM ON 24 DEC AND RE-OPENING 4 PM DEC 26.

OLD VIC 928 7616 CC 261 1821.
Til 25 Jan. Mon-Fri 7.30. Wed Mats 2.30. Sats 4.0 & 7.45. Opened Dec 28. XMAS MATINEE TODAY 2.30. Tomor. Dec 26, 27, 28, 30, 31 at 2.30pm.
BEAUTY & THE BEAST
The Classic Fairy Story adapted for the stage by Louise Page.
Special fares for Children.

OLIVIER 'S' 928 2252 CC (National Theatre's open stage). The building will be closed Dec 24 & 25. Tues 2.15 (low price mat) & 7.15. Mon Dec 30 to Jan 3 A CHORUS OF DISEASE. PREMIERE by Alan Ayckbourn. Fri 7.15. Ends Dec 28 & 30 & Jan 10 to 13 THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND with THE CRITIC.

PALACE THEATRE 437 6834 CC 437 2327/379 6433 Grp Sales 930 6123.
"BEST MUSICAL OF THE 1980s" Pun

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**BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS** etc. on Court and Social Page, £6 a line + 15% VAT. Court and Social Page announcements can not be accepted by telephone. Enquiries tel 01-837 1234 ES 7714.

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**AND, BEHOLD,** thou shalt . . . bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. St. Luke 1: 31.

## BIRTHS

**BARKER** – see Hinchcliffe.

**BATEMAN.** On December 7th at Barking Hospital, to Diane and Alistair – a son Michael James, a brother for Christopher.

**BERLIN** – On December 12th in Atlanta Georgia to Shelley (née Carl) and Robert – a son Daniel Carl, a grandson for David, Mary, Matthew, Jacob and Emily.

**DAVIES** – On 21st December, in Melbourne, Australia, to Rachel (née Hempstead) and Berwyn, a son, Huw Llewyn.

**EAGAN** – On December 21st at The Royal Naval Hospital, Gibraltar, to Mala (née Nelson) and Henry – a daughter (Holly).

**ENGLISH.** To Lucy (née Shaw) and Harry on Nobvember 29 at the Foothills Hospital, Calgary, A second son, Jonathan.

**FISHER** – To Jinny and Neil, a son, Thomas Francis, on Saturday 21st December 1985 at British Military Hospital, Rinteln, West Germany.

**HARVIE-** on December 16th to Patricia (nee Lewis) and Jonathan, a daughter, a sister for Jamie.

**HINCHCLIFFE** – On December 17th, to Wendy and John, a daughter (Georgina Joanne).

**KENT-LEMON** – On December 20th to Linda and Nigel a son, Matthew Edward.

**LO** – On December 22nd at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, to Hilary (nee Williams) and David, a daughter Phillipa Jane.

**MACPHEE** – On December 17th, to Lucy (nee Duke) and Alistair, a daughter.

**MOLYNEAUX.** – to David and Pamela (née Whitby) on 15th December a son George. Lionel. In William. In Edinburgh.

**MORGAN.** On December 6th to James and Susan (nee Balbey), a son – Robert Nicholas.

**MUTTRAM** – On December 10, to Jane (née Stokinson) and Roderick, a daughter Claire Sarah Jane.

**NASH** – On 21 Dec at The Westminster Hospital to Gloria (nee Johnson) and John a son Charles Geoffrey Stoddard.

**ORPWOOD** – On Sunday 22nd December at John Radcliffe, Oxford to Caroline (nee Wayne) and Simon, a son, William John.

**RAMSAY** – On 22nd December at St Thomas's, to Katherine and Andrew, a daughter, Isobel Charlotte.

**ROBERTS.** – On December 22nd 1985 to Georgina (née Cory) and Samuel, a daughter, (Amelia), a sister for Elanor and Olivia.

**SCOTT.** On December 14 at All Saints Hospital, Chatham to Diane and Graham a daughter Amy Jane.

**SKILBECK** – On November 19th to Ralph and Jennifer (née Phillips) a daughter (Natalie Jennifer), a sister to Georgina.

**STURGES**–. on Saturday December 21st. to Vicky (née Garnett) and Simon, a daughter, Emma.

**TALBOT** – On December 20th at Pinner Maternity Hospital to Rhonda (nee Vicki) and Ian – a son, Charles Timothy David.

**TAYLOR,** – On December 21st, to Margaret and Julie – a daughter, Miriam Claire.

**TAYLOR**–. on Saturday 21st December to Julie (nee Bates) and Roger, a son, Oliver Edward Thomas.

**WATERS.** – On December 21st at St. Paul's, Cheltenham, to Jean (nee Todd) and Stephen, a daughter, Eleanor Frances.

## BIRTHDAYS

**AINSLIE CORNISH.** 21 today and no longer aggravating. Many happy returns and all our love Dad, Mummy and Rebecca.

**HELEN TOFT** is 18 today. Happy birthday from Mom, and Dad.

## MARRIAGES

**HANCOCK : BRAMLEY** – The marriage took place on the December 21st. at Staveley-in-Cartmel, between Michael Hancock and Fiona Bramley.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

**DREWITT-LINES.** On Christmas Eve. Dec 24, 1935, at Parish Church, Aylesbury, Ronald to Clara. Now at Legant, St. Ives, Cornwall.

## DEATHS

**ALLEN.** – On December 16, 1985, aged 79, Alice Martha, wife of the late Robert Allen and greatly loved mother and grandmother. R.I.P.

**ANDERSON.** – On December 22, 1985, peacefully at home, Warren House, Old Buckenham, Norfolk Robert Anderson, OBE, RPM, aged 78 years, beloved husband of Matilda, father of John and Fiona, grandfather of Stuart Kirtlea, Catriona and Rory. Ex-Singapore Police Force. Funeral service at All Saints Church, Old Buckenham, on Friday December 27 at 2.15pm, followed by private Cremation. Family flowers only.

**BAIRD** – On December 21st, at Fairmile Marie Curie House, George Burton, aged 57, of 2 Glen Isla Gdn. Edinburgh. Funeral at Dronnin Morven on Christmas Eve.

**BALDWIN.** – On December 23, 1985, peacefully in Sussex in his 89th year, Lewis Leon, formerly of Zimbabwe. A most dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Journey's end.

**BANKES.** Mabel Elizabeth, of Soughton Hall, Northop, Clwyd. – On Friday, 20th December, in her 96th year, dearly loved wife of the late Robert Wynne Bankes, C.B.E., J.P., and much loved and loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Thanksgiving Service at St. Peter's, Northop, at 2.30 pm on Saturday, 4th Jan. 1986. No flowers.

**BLACK** – On 21st December 1985, Rosemary, much loved wife of Archie for 51 years & mother of Charles & the late Sarah. Funeral Private. Family flowers only.

**BRETTMEYER** – On 21st December, peacefully at home aged 85 years. Clarice, widow of Cecil Brettmeyer formerly of Snape Hill, Hacheguall, Suffolk. Funeral service at 12 noon, Tuesday 31st December at St Mary's church, Hacheguall, Suffolk, followed by private burial at Hacheguall. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for Hacheguall Church Restoration Fund may be addressed to the Death.

**BRISCOE** – On 21st December, William Alexander (Bill), D.M., F.R.C.P., aged 67, peacefully at home, 2 Peter Cooper Road, New York City. Beloved husband of Anne.

**CHAPLIN.** On December 20th peacefully at St Stephens Hospital Angela Margery, wife of the late Hon Niall Chaplin. Funeral service at Mortlake Crematorium on Tuesday, December 31st at 1.30.

**CHIDLAW-ROBERTS.** – On December 21, 1985, Margaret Constance Montagu (Meg) at King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, wife of the late Colonel "Bobby" Chidlaw-Roberts of the Sherwood Foresters. Twin sister of Mr Charles Betterden, Kent, 4 Martins Close, Tenterden, Kent. Funeral service and committal at All Saints Church, Steep, Hampshire on Monday, December 30 at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only.

**DENCER** – On December 21st 1985, after a fall, Dorothy (Paddy), dear sister of Katherine. Funeral service private. No flowers, but donations if desired may be sent to The National Trust, 36 Queens Anne's Natural Trust, 36 Queens Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS.

**EVANS.** On December 20 peacefully at home Mary Frances (Judy), sister of Harlowe, Guy and John, aged 65. Funeral service 2.15p.m. Rosary Funeral service 2.15p.m. Rosary 3rd All Saints, Caversborough, to be followed by private cremation. Enquiries to Paul Bysouth & Son 089 26 5000.

**GRAHAM** – On 22nd December 1985, Violet Kathleen, aged 80, wife of the late Sir J. Cresland Graham, of Plas-yn-Rhos, Ruthin, Clwyd. Funeral Service at Llanrhaiadr Church at 2.30pm on Friday 27th December for family and close friends only.

**GREGORY** – On December 20th 1985, Clare Elizabeth, aged 16, of Woking, Surrey, as a result of a car accident. Dearly loved daughter of Frank and Margaret, sister of Nicky, Funeral Service at St John's Church, St John's, Woking, on Friday December 27th at 10.30am. All enquiries and flowers to Woking Funeral Service. Tel: Woking 61754.

**HAMILTON.** – Suddenly, on Dec 21, Cliff Hillier, General G. J. Hamilton, CB, CBE, DSO, once of QVO Cameron Highlanders of Canada, and Governor of Malta, and Mrs. Aldred husband of Mollie, and dearly loved father and grandfather. Service at 12 noon, Monday, December 30, at Warlingham Parish Church, near Hurstmonceux, East Sussex. If desired, donations to Cancer Research.

**HINDLEY** – On December 20th, peacefully in hospital, Clement Walter Godfrey (Bobbie), OBE., aged 86, of Twickenham, brother of Geoffrey and Henry. Funeral at Woking Crematorium, 12 noon Monday December 30th.

**LAMBERT** at Wrexham Park Hospital, after a road accident, Colin, beloved husband of Dennis, and devoted father to Adam and Mathew. Funeral Service, Easthampstead Park Crematorium, Friday 27th December, at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Wrexham Park Intensive Care Unit. Enquiries to David Grundy 0344 775741.

**LOVERY** – On December 20th 1985, peacefully at home, Martin (Gennie), most dearly loved husband of Jean, father of Jill and Martin, and much loved grandfather. Funeral today (Tuesday) 3pm at Golders Green Crematorium. Family flowers only.

**MARFFY-MANTUARO.** – On December 11th, suddenly in London, Judith Thorun, beloved daughter of the late Thomas and of Margit de Marffy-Mantuaro, and sister of Edina and Peter. The funeral has taken place.

**MARRIOTT,** Ian. On Sunday December 15, aged 74. Formerly of Highfield, Lymington.

**MARTEN.** On December 22nd, peacefully in his sleep, Sir Neil, much loved husband of Joan and father of Anthony, Judith and Mary-Louise. Quiet funeral at Mapledon Church, near Sturminster Newton on 31st December at 3.15pm. Family flowers only please, but donations to Save The Children Fund. There will be a memorial service at St Margaret's, Westminster on January 22nd at 12 noon, and in Dembury at a later date.

**MCLEAN.** – O December 21 Dr Edith Muriel Finlayson McLean, MB ChB, D.P.H., Doris, peacefully at home aged 87, beloved mother & grandmother. Private funeral arrangements. No flowers please. Donations to RNLI.

**MIDDLEHURST** – On December 22nd, Dorothy, wife of Tony, died peacefully at home, at St Margaret's Bay near Dover. Funeral at St Margaret's today, at 1.30pm. Donations if desired to British Talking Book Service for the Blind, Mount Pleasant, Wembley, Middlesex.

**NAYLOR,** Ernest Jonathan MSC PHD, after a road accident. Colin, beloved husband of Dennis, and devoted father to Adam and Mathew. Funeral Service, Easthampstead Park Crematorium, Friday 27th December, at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Wrexham Park Intensive Care Unit. Enquiries to David Grundy 0344 775741.

**MURRAY.** Thomas, died December 24th 1964. Rest in Peace.

**TUSON,** William Henry, who died Christmas Eve last year is not for one moment forgotten by his family.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

**CONSTANTINOU,** ARISTOS, a memorial service for the life of Aristos Constantinou will be held at St Sophia's Cathedral, Moscow Road, Bayswater W2 on Sunday 29th December 1985 at 1.15 pm. Relatives and friends please arrive by 1 pm.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**KROX : COOKSLEY** – Colin second son of Arthur and Margaret of Nottingham, London, Sally eldest daughter of Robert and Ruth now of Horse Bay, Perth, announce their engagement on 24th December 1985.

**BETHLEHEM CHILDREN.** 7.30 am Christmas morning on Radio 2 with Roger Royle. The Bibliolands Society, publishers of The Bethlehem Carol Sheet, provides regular support to The Bethlehem Children's Home and many others. Please send a gift or sponsor a child for £6 per month. Reg Charity No 226093. No deductions for administration. The Bibliolands Society (Dept 11, PO Box 50, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP16 7QU.

**WOMENS** National Cancer Control Campaign, thank supporters of their Halloween Ball, at The Grosvenor House Hotel, which raised £18,700, including National Raffle. List of Prizewinners available. Ring 01-499 8633.

**LOST,** 4pm Thursday 19th December, New Cavendish Street, W1, Brooch. Citrine mounted in gold and enamel. Reward £200. Mrs Rose. Tel: 01-722 1629.

**JILL,** Reading, Blackburn, Hackney. Where to in 86? Happy Xmas. Love Monty.

## U.K. HOLIDAYS

**SALMON FISHING,** Grouse shooting. Avail end Sept and Oct 1986. 40,000 acre estate Isle of Lewis. Bag of 14 Sept/Oct. 1985, 56 salmon, 99 sea trout, 206 grouse. Min 5 people. £2500 each pw, full board. 5 suites. Brochure, R. Kershaw (0565899) 3483 home. 061-834 3288 office.

**SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS** – 12 acre moorland estate, house, 12 sleeps, 2 miles from public road in beautiful lochside setting. Fishing, sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, etc no private loch. 01-352 7697.

## WANTED

**URGENTLY** wanted. Silver up to £20 per ounce. Gold up to £280 per ounce. Also all antiques bought. Phone Mr Davies 720 6442 or write 22 Culvery Street, London, SW11 (T).

**WANTED** – finest Victorian and Edwardian furniture pedestal desks, dining tables and bookcases. 01-641 1848 anytime (T).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS


**WORK FIRST PLAY LATER IN THE U.S.**

Are you a boy/girl, 15 years or older/between 16 years of age? If so, Camp America needs you for 9 weeks to teach sports, arts and crafts in an American summer camp. Benefits include Free return flight, Free board, pocket money and up to 8 weeks travelling. Worthwhile?

Camp America, Dept. TT13,
37 Queens Gate, London SW7
or call 01-581 2378



**CAT LOVERS!**

In the past year THE CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE has helped over 60,000 cats and kittens, often victims of cruelty or neglect. The League, Britain's oldest charity solely for the welfare of cats, has 142 groups and branches throughout the British Isles. It depends entirely on public support to carry on its work for needy cats.

PLEASE send a donation to help to find cats a loving home at the CPL National Cattery. 1 Brochure: Everett Place School of Cookery, 1 Everett Place, Oxford OX2 7JD. Tel: 514719.

THE PRE-UNIVERSITY COURSE for information Telephone John Hall. 01-584 7335.

PLEASE help us, the more we'll find out

Please help heart research with a donation to the British Heart Foundation

The heart research charity

102 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4DH



**Cancer**

Together we can beat it.

We fund over one third of all research into the prevention and cure of cancer in the UK.

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2 Carlton House Terrace, (Dept. T.33), London SW1Y 5AR.



**Cancer Relief**

Macmillan fund

Registered as National Society for Cancer Relief Reg. No. 261627

**Help Cancer Sufferers this Christmas.**

PLEASE send a cheque, cash or PO NOW, or give by credit card, covenant or legacy to:

Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, Room 54, 30 Dorset Square, London NW1 6QL. Tel: 01-402 8125.



**"Would you like to be growing up today?**

Growing up is more depressing and difficult today than ever before. Housing conditions are often appalling, recreational facilities are often lacking; many young people are homeless while others live in unhappy homes. For most, secondary education sends them out ill-prepared for adult life and work. Worst of all is the extent of unemployment facing school-leavers.

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Patron — HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh


# PERSONAL COLUMNS

Trade 01-837 2104 and 01-278 9252 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

## IN MEMORIAM

**DOCKSEY PATRICK.** Christmas Day 1978. In his 78th year. Dearly loved husband and father.

**DRUMMOND-WOLFF-RCH.** Black-Watch. In memory of a dear friend, who will always be remembered for his courage and kindness by Patricia.

**HARDIE, Colin.** Commander DSC, RN, Ret'd. In memory of a darling husband and a dear father, who will be forever missed by his beloved wife Patricia and his children Sally-Anne and Colin Neil.

**MURRAY.** Thomas, died December 24th 1964. Rest in Peace.

**TUSON,** William Henry, who died Christmas Eve last year is not for one moment forgotten by his family.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

**CONSTANTINOU, ARISTOS,** a memorial service for the life of Aristos Constantinou will be held at St Sophia's Cathedral, Moscow Road, Bayswater W2 on Sunday 29th December 1985 at 1.15 pm. Relatives and friends please arrive by 1 pm.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**KROX : COOKSLEY** – Colin second son of Arthur and Margaret of Nottingham, London, Sally eldest daughter of Robert and Ruth now of Horse Bay, Perth, announce their engagement on 24th December 1985.

**BETHLEHEM CHILDREN.** 7.30 am Christmas morning on Radio 2 with Roger Royle. The Bibliolands Society, publishers of The Bethlehem Carol Sheet, provides regular support to The Bethlehem Children's Home and many others. Please send a gift or sponsor a child for £6 per month. Reg Charity No 226093. No deductions for administration. The Bibliolands Society (Dept 11, PO Box 50, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP16 7QU.

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## CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS


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# Christmas Eve

## All the holiday television programmes
Edited by Peter Dear & Peter Davalle

# Christmas Day

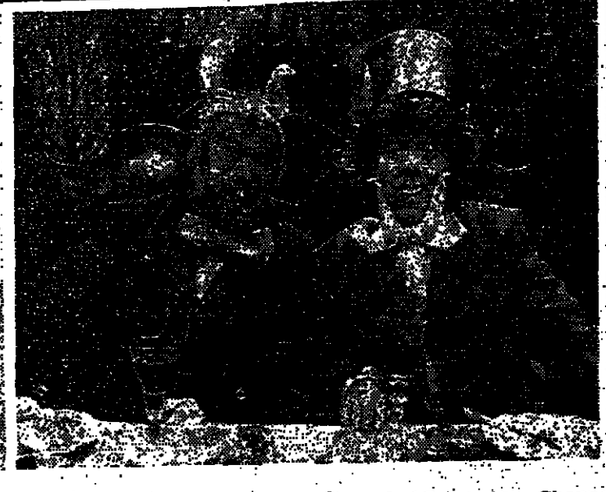






CHRISTMAS EVE:
Left: Denise Bryer and Martin Jarvis. They read another instalment of Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol (on Radio 4, 10.15pm). Centre: Eric Morecambe, Ernie Wise and Suzanne Danielle (on ITV, 8.00pm). Right: Aled Jones sings some Carols for Christmas in St Edmundsbury Cathedral (on Channel 4, 8.30pm).







CHRISTMAS DAY:
Left: Douglas Fairbanks, acrobatic star of the silent film The Thief of Bagdad (on Channel 4, 4.45pm). Centre: Ronnie Barker and Ronnie Corbett in Wonderland: The Two Ronnies (BBC 1, 9.00pm). And, right: David Griffin and Ruth Madoc who appear in the special Christmas edition of Hi-de-Hi! (on BBC 1, 6.30pm).

## BBC 1

**6.00** Ceefax AM.

**6.50** Breakfast Time with Frank Bough, Selina Scott, Nick Ross, Debbie Greenwood and Mike Smith. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. The programme includes guests, Roland Rat and the Choir of Westminster Abbey, and Selina Scott with an account of her visits to Red Cross orphanages in Ethiopia.

**9.20** The Littlest Hobo (r). **9.45** The Hunter. **9.50** Play Chess.

**10.00** Charlie Brown. Cartoon (r). **10.25** Magic Roundabout (r). **10.30** Play School. **10.50** Tom and Jerry. Cartoon.

**11.05** Charles in Charge. Adventures of a male nanny. **11.30** See Hear! (r). **12.20** Junior Kick Start. Heat two.

**12.50** News with Richard Whitmore. **1.00** A Song for Christmas, presented by Paul Cole and Josephine Buchan. **1.45** Mr Benn (r).

**2.00** Film: The Slipper and the Rose (1976) starring Richard Chamberlain and Gemma Craven as the prince and Cinderella in a musical version of the pantomime story. Directed by Bryan Forbes (Ceefax).

**4.20** Keith and Orville's Christmas Circus. A fantasy story with special guest, Dana.

**5.00** Carols from Kings. The traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols recorded at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, with the Choir of King's College.

**6.00** News with Richard Whitmore.

**6.15** Jim'll Fix It for Christmas. Jimmy Savile fixes a wedding in the Indian Ocean; for a little lady to be Little Bo Peep; and another to meet Chas and Dave.

**7.00** Telly Addicts Christmas Special. The incredible Pain family in a special challenge from a team comprising of Nine Myskow, Barry Took, Michael Grade and Larry Grayson.

**7.30** EastEnders. Christmas Eve comes to Albert Square and Wicksy entertains at the electric organ at the Queen Vic (Ceefax).

**8.00** Kenny Everett's Christmas Carol. Mr Everett's tribute to Charles Dickens with help from Michael Barrymore, Peter Cook, Spike Milligan, Willie Rushton and John Wells.

**8.30** A Question of Sport. Bill Beaumont and Emlyn Hughes are joined by Stan Boardman, Ray Brooks, John Nettles and Eddie Large (Ceefax).

**9.00** Terry and June. Chaos reigns as Terry double books pantomime parts.

**9.30** News with Richard Whitmore. Weather.

**9.45** Cagney and Lacey. The two New York policewomen investigate the case of disappearing street musicians (Ceefax).

**10.30** Val Doonican's Christmas Party. With Pat Boone, James Galway, Janet Brown and Stockton's Wing.

**11.20** The Good Life Christmas Special. The Good's and the Leadbetters both plan their own festivities – but nothing goes as planned (r).

**11.50** The First Communion of Christmas from the Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Wilfred, Ripon.

**12.50** Weather.

## BBC 2

**9.00** Ceefax.

**1.40** What's Up, Chuck? The second programme in the series presented by top Hollywood animator, Chuck Jones. Today he traces the rise to stardom of Warner Brothers' Bugs Bunny.

**2.10** Sport 85 presented by Harry Carpenter. Highlights from the 50th Rugby League Challenge Cup Final, between Hull and Wigan.

**3.00** Peter No-Tail. An animated feature film, made in 1981, based on the novels by Swedish writer Gosta Knutsson, about the fifth of five kittens, who escapes a drowning by hiding in an unsuspecting motorist's car. He is adopted by the man's family and begins a new life in the city. This English version is directed by Michael Bakewell.

**4.20** Film: Dr Dolittle (1967) starring Rex Harrison, Samantha Eggar, Anthony Newley and Richard Attenborough. A musical piece of whimsy about a doctor who gives up treating humans in order to deal with animals after learning 500 animal dialects from a parrot. Directed by Richard Fleischer.

**6.40** It's Your 20th Anniversary, Charlie Brown. A tribute to Charles M Schultz's famous comic strip creation featuring clips from the best of the Charlie Brown television shows, and Bill Melendez, the character's animator who explains how he brought his creation to life.

**7.30** The New-Born King. A Christmas celebration in words and music from Westminster Cathedral. With Aled Jones, Eirlan James and Benjamin Luxon with the Westminster Cathedral Choir.



Rex Harrison: 4.20 pm

**8.30** Call My Bluff presented by Robert Robinson. Frank Muir is joined by Jan Francis and Patrick Lichfield; Arthur Marshall by Sue Arnold and Ian Ogilvy.

**9.00** Rush – The Fallow Deer. A documentary following the fortunes of Rush from the time he totters to his feet when he is born in the New Forest.

**10.00** Charles and Diana – A Working Year. Sue Lawley looks back over a hectic year for the Prince and Princess of Wales.

**10.30** Film: The Innocents* (1961) starring Deborah Kerr. A chilling tale, based on Henry James's The Turn of the Screw, the story of a governess who believes the children in her charge are possessed by the spirits of two dead lovers. Is she correct, or is her imagination getting the better of her? With Michael Redgrave, Peter Wyngarde and Megs Jenkins. Directed by Jack Clayton.

**12.05** Weather.

## TV-am

**6.15** Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.17, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; exercises at 6.20; sport at 6.35 and 7.34; regional report at 7.15; film reviews at 8.54; Wacaday at 9.04.

## ITV/LONDON

**9.25** Thames news headlines followed by Fraggle Rock (r). **9.50** Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends (r). **10.00** Disney: The Night Before Christmas. Cartoon. **10.05** The Battle of the Monster Trucks. Thrilling juggernaut racing from the United States.

**10.55** Film: Never Never Land (1980) starring Petula Clark. Eight-year-old Jennie goes to stay with her cousins when her parents are divorced. Two of the cousins resent her presence but a third takes pity and the two of them enter a fantasy world. Directed by Paul Annett.

**12.30** God Bless Us Every One! A Christmas celebration from All Saints' Church, Kingston-upon-Thames.

**1.00** News at One with Leonard Parkin. **1.20** Thames news.

**An ITV dispute may affect the holiday programme schedules.**

**1.30** Film: Close Encounters of the Third Kind (Special Edition) (1978) starring Richard Dreyfuss, Francois Truffaut and Teri Garr. When an electricity company worker sees unidentified flying objects near his home in Indiana, his efforts to discover what is happening seem to be frustrated by a governmental cover-up. Directed by Steven Spielberg (Oracle).

**3.55** The Wind in the Willows. **4.20** Splash into Christmas with Michael Groth, Victoria Studd and Nino Firetto. **4.50** Knight Rider. Michael and KITT become a dare-devil act while investigating the death of a circus performer.

**5.45** News with Martyn Lewis **6.00** Thames news.

**6.25** Help! Viv Taylor Gee with news of a 24 hour information service run, by Thames Television, LWT and Capital Radio.

**6.35** Crossroads.

**7.00** Carry On Laughing. Highlights from films in the Carry On series.

**7.30** Whose Baby? presented by Bernie Winters. Henry Cooper, Nanette Newman and Kenneth Williams try to discover the identities of the famous parent or parents of a selection of babies.

**8.00** The Best of Morecambe and Wise. With guests Peter Barkworth, Suzanne Danielle, Hannah Gordon, Ann Hamilton, Glenda Jackson and Donald Sinden (Oracle).

**9.00** Film: Arthur (1980) starring Dudley Moore, Liza Minnelli and John Gielgud. Comedy about a perennially drunk playboy who is threatened with disinheritance unless he mends his ways and marries the girl of his parents' choice. Directed by Steve Gordon.

**10.45** News with Pamela Armstrong.

**11.00** Carols from Christ Church. With the choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, Alec McCowan and Ian Charleson (r).

**11.30** Midnight Mass from the Mater Infirmorum Hospital, Belfast.

**12.30** Closedown.

## CHANNEL 4

**2.35** Film: Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday* (1939) starring Gordon Harker and Alastair Sim. This comedy thriller begins a season of Launder and Gilliat films. Inspector Hornleigh and his hapless sergeant, Bingham, are diverted from a seaside holiday by an insurance fraud involving corpses from a London hospital. Directed by Walter Forde.

**4.15** Film: Pest from the West* (1939) starring Buster Keaton as a millionaire who arrives at a Mexican village and tries to insinuate himself into the life of the locals and especially that of a young girl (Lorna Gray). Directed by Del Lord.

**4.35** Taize: That Little Springtime. A documentary examining the ecumenical community of Taize in France and its founder, Brother Roger. The community consists of more than 80 men from various countries and Christian persuasions who share a vow of poverty and celibacy and hold their goods in common.

**5.00** Peace on Earth. A repeat of the 1983 Christmas Day programme showing for the first time on television the commemoration of the birth of Christ at the actual spot it is believed to have taken place – now the Grotto of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The programme is narrated by the late Dame Flora Robson with readings by Lord Olivier (Oracle).

**6.00** Altarpieces. The third and final programme in the series examining German altarpieces of the 15th and early 16th centuries. Seeking the Blessed is shown today. This exquisitely carved work by Tilman Riemenschneider was dedicated to the Virgin Mary in 1505 and stands in a small church in Creglingen, Germany.

**6.30** Film: The Snowman (1982) A made-for-television children's masterpiece, based on Raymond Brigg's story about a snowman who comes to life and takes the little boy who built him to the North Pole where they meet Father Christmas. Directed by Diane Jackson.

**7.00** News summary and weather followed by Christmas on Ice. A gala from Paris featuring Robin Cousins.

**8.00** Brookside. The mystery girl who has been telephoning Barry arrives on the Grants' doorstep, but Barry passes her on to Terry.

**8.30** Carols for Christmas. A concert recorded in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, featuring Sir David Willcocks conducting his own arrangements of 23 popular carols, with Aled Jones, Gerald Finley, the Royal College of Music Chamber Choir and the Farnaby Brass Ensemble. The concert is interwoven with paintings and images of Christmas from the Metropolitan Museum, New York.

**9.35** Film: The Lady Vanishes* (1938) starring Margaret Lockwood and Michael Redgrave. Spy story about the disappearance on a trans-European train of a governess who none of the other passengers have claimed to have seen. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

**11.25** The Pointer Sisters in Paris. Ends at 12.35.

## BBC 1

**8.00** Ceefax.

**8.35** Play School. **8.55** Muppet Babies. Cartoon. **9.20** Knockl Knockl

**9.35** This is the Day. Worship and prayer from a viewer's home in Birmingham.

**10.05** Film: The Gnome-Mobile (1967) starring Walter Brennan in the dual role of a 943-year-old gnome and a millionaire grandfather. A Walt Disney production directed by Robert Stevenson. **11.28** Weather.

**11.30** Roland's Yuletide Binge. The superstar himself with guests Russell Grant, Frankie Howerd, Jan Leeming, Ian McCaskill, Beryl Reid and Valerie Singleton. **11.55** The Noel Edmonds Live Live Christmas Breakfast Show from the top of the British Telecom Tower includes the first live television satellite broadcast from the Sudan in which British relief workers are linked with their families in this country.

**2.00** Top of the Pops Christmas Party. The most popular records of the past year.

**3.00** The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth (Ceefax).

**3.10** Children's Royal Variety Performance in the presence of Princess Margaret. Mike Smith introduces a star studded line-up which includes Roy Castle, Jan Francis, Rolf Harris, Paul Nicholas, Su Pollard, Gian Sammarco and Wayne Sleep.

**4.55** All Creatures Great and Small. A feature length episode based on James Herriot's The Lord God Made Them All, starring Christopher Timothy, Peter Davison, Robert Hardy and Carol Drinkwater. The story is set in the years immediately after the Second World War and concerns Siegfried's enthusiasm for new treatments and James's reliance on more traditional methods (Ceefax).

**6.25** News with Moira Stuart.

**6.30** Hi-de-Hi! The first of a new series finds the entertainments' staff of Maplins at loggerheads over the casting of poolside entertainment (Ceefax).

**7.30** Only Fools and Horses . . . A feature length episode in which Del accepts a commission to go to Amsterdam to collect a cache of diamonds only to discover that the boys in blue have knowledge of the proposed trip and seal off the ports (Ceefax).

**9.00** The Two Ronnies. A new series starring Messrs Barker and Corbett includes Little Big Shot, a drama set in Chicago during the 1920s.

**9.50** News with Moira Stuart.

**10.00** Wogan. Terry reports from Denver where he is sharing a groaning festive board with the stars of Dynasty.

**10.40** Film: Absence of Malice (1981) starring Paul Newman and Sally Field. Newman plays Galagher a liquor merchant who is the victim of the Miami police's frustration at not being able to identify the killer of a prominent union leader. Galagher's name is leaked to an eager and ambitious reporter of the Miami Standard as being the number one suspect. She, along with the police and the mob, makes life very uncomfortable for the booze merchant. Directed by Sydney Pollack.

**12.35** Weather.

## BBC 2

**9.00** Ceefax.

**11.30** Supercharged. Restored Grand Prix cars from the period between 1924 and 1939 test driven by John Watson (r).

**12.20** Film: The Man in the Santa Claus Suit (1978) starring Fred Astaire. A fantasy tale about the spirit of Christmas with Astaire playing the title role. Three men each hire a Santa Claus suit and discover their lives are being altered by a mysterious man who floats into their lives. Directed by Corey Allen.

**1.55** Christmas Day Concert, live from the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, Bernard Haitink conducts the Concertgebouw Orchestra in a performance of Mahler's Symphony No 7.

**3.30** Three in the Wild. The first of three dramas depicting the lives of the three of Britain's wild creatures. This afternoon, Shak, the Red Fox, follows the fortunes of one of a litter of cubs born to an aging, half-blind vixen on the Somerset wetlands (r).

**4.30** Film: Citizen Kane* (1941) starring Orson Welles and Joseph Cotten. Welles's masterpiece opens a series of his films. This story is of a rich and powerful newspaper magnate who discovers his seemingly ever-successful career threatened by a scandal.

**6.25** A Prize Performance. Dr Evadne Hinge and Dame Hilda Brackett are at Cheltenham Ladies' College where Dame Hilda is guest speaker on Speech Day. Dr Hinge assumes the invitation was forthcoming because Hilda is a distinguished old girl.

**7.20** The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth.

**7.30** Kiri Te Kanawa at Christmas. The international singing star in a concert of popular music recorded two days ago at the Barbican Hall with the Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Carl Davis.

**8.20** Edge of the Wind, by Don Webb. Sir John Mills, Omar Sharif and Lucy Gutteridge star in this drama about a wheelchair-bound retired Major-General, his manservant and the insurance lady who advises the general to sell up his house in the Welsh countryside to live in a sheltered home. But what is to happen to the old retainer?

**9.25** Film Buff of the Year. Robin Ray presents an All-Winners Show. Dennis Howells (winner in 1982) answers questions on Hollywood musicals of the 1940; Peter Richards (1983) on Claude Chabrol; John Dawson (1984) on Ken Russell; and Howard Spencer (1985) on Claude Rains.

**10.00** Film: Diva (1982) starring Wilhemina Wiggins Fernandez and Frederic Andrei. Comedy drama about a young opera fan who secretly records a performance by a singer who has never made a record. When this tape is joined by another, dropped in his bag by a dying girl, the young man discovers that he is the innocent quarry of a gang of ruthless killers. Directed by Jean-Jacques Beineix. English subtitles.

**11.55** Choirs at Midnight. A festival of boys' choirs in honour of St Cecilia, featuring the Vienna Boys' Choir, Les Petits Chanteurs de Paris, The Tolz Boys' Choir and the Winchester Cathedral Choir.

**12.55** Weather.

## TV-am

**6.15** Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen begins with cartoons until 7.15; news headlines at 7.00, 8.00, and 9.00.

**7.15** TV-am's Christmas Party.

## ITV/LONDON

**9.25** Christmas Fraggle Rock. The Fraggles prepare for the annual Festival of Balls (r). **9.50** Dangermouse.

**10.00** The Christmas Morning Service from Kenton Methodist Church. **11.00** Disney at Christmas.

**11.15** Film: The Black Hole (1979) starring Maximillian Schell and Anthony Perkins. Science fiction adventure about a United States spacecraft that discovers the derelict remains of Cygnus, a sister craft that disappeared 20 years earlier. When they dock on to Cygnus the crew of the Palomino discover that it is now the domain of Dr Hans Reinhardt, a deranged scientific genius. Directed by Gary Nelson.

**1.00** Jim Davidson's Top Pop Videos of '85. The best selling records and pop videos of 1985.

**2.00** The Royal Year. Anthony Carthew presents highlights of a busy year for the Royal Family (Oracle).

**3.00** The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth.

**3.05** Film: Moonraker (1979) starring Roger Moore, as James Bond this time investigating the disappearance of a US-British space shuttle. His investigations lead to a bevy of beauties, as usual, and to a billionaire who wants to rule the world. Directed by Lewis Gilbert.

**5.30** News with Carol Barnes.

**5.40** Name That Tune. Fast-moving musical quiz presented by Lionel Blair. Contestants from Walton-on-Thames, and Washington, Tyne and Wear, strive for the £1,250 prize.

**6.10** Coronation Street. The Barlows feel let down by Susan's arrangements for the day (Oracle).

**6.45** Fresh Fields Christmas Special. William and Hester realise that for the first time they will be childless at Christmas and decide to ask the neighbours round to help them celebrate the occasion. Starring Julia McKenzie and Anton Rodgers (Oracle).

**7.30** Minder on the Orient Express, by Andrew Payne. Terry is rewarded for saving a young lady from muggers with two tickets for the Orient Express. Arthur, after discovering that it is not a Chinese takeaway, finds a way in which he will be the recipient of the second ticket for a trip to Venice.

**9.30** Des O'Connor Tonight. The entertainer's guests are Joan Collins, Dudley Moore, Alan King and Willie Tyler and Lester.

**10.40** News with Carol Barnes.

**10.50** Film: Gregory's Girl (1980) starring Gordon John Sinclair and Dee Hepburn. Delightful, non-syrupy tale of puppy love about a teenage boy who falls for his replacement in the school football team – Dorothy. Directed by Bill Forsyth.

**12.30** Christmas Night Thoughts from St Mary's Church, Wimbledon, with Alec McCowan and Paul Miles-Kingston. Ends at 12.40.

## CHANNEL 4

**11.00** Film: Mister Skeeter (1985) starring Peter Bayliss. This latest production from the Children's Film Unit is the story of two runaways from a children's home threatened with closure. While at the seaside sheltering by a bus stop they meet the eccentric Mr Skeeter who performs magic and introduces them to his imaginary dog (Oracle).

**12.30** Wil 6. The story of an incorrigible young rogue with a singing voice that laps all the local honours, and his battles of wills with his headmaster. In Welsh and English with English subtitles.

**1.20** Film: Happy Anniversary* (1962) starring Pierre Etaix. A French-made Oscar-winning comedy short about a young couple looking forward to celebrating their wedding anniversary, but the husband's car breaks down and he is unable to contact his wife. He receives a surprising welcome when he eventually arrives home. Directed by Pierre Etaix and Jean-Claude Carriere.

**1.55** A Closer Encounter. An Assignment Adventure film about Dr Horace Dobbs, director of Dolphin Watch, and the creatures with whom he has made friends.

**2.35** Film: At the Circus* (1939) starring The Marx Brothers. Madcap comedy with the brothers helping a circus owner get even with a loan shark. Directed by Edward Buzzell.

**4.15** Film: Nothing But Pleasure* (1939) starring Buster Keaton as an accident-prone motorist. Directed by Jules White.

**4.35** The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth.

**4.45** Film: The Thief of Bagdad* (1924) starring Douglas Fairbanks. A classic silent about an audacious rogue, Ahmed the Thief. One day he steals a magic rope with which he gains entrance to the Palace of the Caliph. Intent in stealing jewels, he is diverted from his task by the beautiful princess and, in disguise, becomes one of her suitors. Directed by Raoul Walsh.

**7.40** News summary and weather.

**7.45** The Mind of David Berglas. A showcase of the skills of the illusionist and psychic investigator. His guests are Stephanie Lawrence, Graham Chapman, Britt Ekland and Freddie Jones.

**8.45** Fonteyn and Nureyev: The Perfect Partnership. A documentary, written and directed by Peter Batty, tracing the story of the partnership between Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev. With excerpts from their finest performances including Romeo and Juliet, Le Corsaire, Giselle, Swan Lake, Marguerite and Armand, Les Sylphides, Birthday Offering, Hamlet Prelude and Lucifer.

**10.40** Mel Brooks Hails Sid Caesar. Mel Brooks introduces a compilation of the comedy programmes that were obligatory viewing in the United States during the 1950s.

**11.40** Weber's Missa Sancta. A performance of Carl Maria von Weber's mass recorded live at the Baroque Monastery of Waldsassen, featuring soloists Margaret Marshall, Marga Schiemel, Thomas Moser and Kurt Moll. Horst Stein conducts the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra. Ends at 12.25.

**BBC 1** Wales: 9.45 pm-10.30 Cagney and Lacey. 12.50-12.55 Weather. Scotland: 11.50 pm-12.30 am Watchnight Service from St Michael's, Linlithgow. 12.30-12.35 Weather. Northern Ireland: 12.50 am-12.55 News and weather.

**S4C** Starts: 1.00pm Countdown. 1.30 Altar-Pieces. 2.00 Film: The Mikado* 1939. 3.40 Pride of Our Alley. 5.10 Basketball. 6.10 Ffalabalam. 6.25 Hammer Awr Fawr. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.15 Penigamp. 7.45 Cefn Gwlad. 8.15 Parti! 9.15 Ifas y Tryc: Mynci Busnas. 10.15 Syiw Un. 10.25 Cadwyn Carolau. 11.15 Can y Cychau. 11.45 Gwasanaeth Nadolig. 12.45am Closedown.

**ULSTER** As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 6.00-6.35 Good Evening Ulster. 12.30am Closedown.

### REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

**HTV WEST** As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 HTV News. 6.00-6.35 HTV News. 12.30am Closedown.

**HTV WALES** As HTV West except: 9.25am-8.50 Fraggle Rock. 6.00pm-6.35 Wales at Six. 7.00-8.00 Christmas Caryl.

**CHANNEL** As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Channel News. 4.50 Getalong Gang. 5.15-5.45 Who's The Boss? 6.00-6.35 Channel Report. 12.30am Closedown.

**SCOTTISH** As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Scottish News. 6.00-6.35 News and Scotland Today. 11.30 Watchnight Service from Anderson Kelvingrove Church, Glasgow. 12.10 am Closedown.

**GRANADA** As London except: 1.20-1.30pm Granada Reports News. 6.00-6.35pm Granada Reports. 12.30 am Closedown

**TVS** As London except: 1.20-1.30pm TVS News. 12.30am Company, followed by Closedown.

**BORDER** As London except: 1.20-1.30pm Border News. 6.00 Lookaround Tuesday. 6.20-6.35 Uncle John and Eric's Christmas Eve Special. 12.30am Closedown.

**YORKSHIRE** As London except: 1.20-1.30pm Calendar Headlines. 12.30am Closedown.

**ANGLIA** As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Anglia News. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia.

**TSW** As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 4.50 Getalong Gang. 5.15 Gus Honeybun's Magic Birthdays. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South West. 6.25 Televiews. 6.30-7.00 Who's the Boss? 12.30 am Postscripts.

**GRAMPIAN** As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 North News. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 11.30 Watchnight Service from Anderston Kelvingrove Church, Glasgow. 12.10 am Reflections. 12.15 Closedown.

**TYNE TEES** As London except: 9.25 am News. 9.30-9.50 Fraggle Rock. 1.20 pm-1.30 News and Lookaround. 6.00 News. 6.05-6.35 Survival. 12.30 am Closedown.

**CENTRAL** As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Central News. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25 Central News. 12.30am Closedown.

**S4C** Starts 12.50pm Weber's Missa Sancta. 1.35 Altar-Pieces. 2.00 Countdown. 2.30 Queen's Christmas Message. 2.45 Film: Mister Skeeter (Peter Bayliss). Runaway children meet an eccentric at the seaside. 4.15 Ffalabalam. 4.20 Y Dyn Eira. 4.55 Superted. 5.05 Roc 'Rol Twrcl. 5.30 Hwrlbwrli. 6.00 Nadoligari. 6.50 Newyddion. 7.00 Y Dyn 'Nath Odwyn y 'Dolig. 8.35 Ar Lan y Mor. 10.00 Lleisiau Cymru. 10.50 Film: The Lady Vanishes* (Margaret Lockwood). Hitchcock's 1938 thriller-comedy. 12.40am Closedown.

**HTV WEST** No variation.

**HTV WALES:** No variation.

### REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

**CHANNEL 4** As London except: 12.30am Weather and Closedown.

**SCOTTISH** As London except: 9.25am The Moderator's Christmas Message. 9.35-9.50 Monkey Business. 12.35am Late Call. 12.40 Closedown.

**BORDER** As London except: 9.25am The Moderator's Christmas Message. 9.35-9.50 Monkey Business.

**GRANADA** No variation.

**ULSTER** No variation.

**TVS** As London except: 12.30am Company, Closedown.

**TYNE TEES** No variation.

**CENTRAL** No variation.

**TSW** As London except: 12.30am Postscript. 12.35 Closedown.

**GRAMPIAN** As London except: 9.25am The Moderator's Christmas Message. 9.35-9.50 Monkey Business. 12.30am Reflections. 12.35 Closedown.

**YORKSHIRE** No variation.

**ANGLIA** No variation.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
† Stereo. ★ Black and white. (r) Repeat

**FREQUENCIES:** Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m; VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m; VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.



# Boxing Day



**BOXING DAY:**
Left: Some of the cast of Tenko Reunion (BBC 1, 9.00pm), trying on some Chinese opera costumes during filming of the final episode in the series. Centre: Placido Domingo as Alfredo in the Zeffirelli film of Verdi's opera La Traviata (BBC 2, 8.30pm). Right: the Garnetts in In Sickness and in Health (on BBC 1, 8.30pm).

## BBC 1

**8.00** Ceefax.

**8.35** **Play School**, presented by Wayne Jackman. The guests include Karen Paisey, a principal dancer of the Royal Ballet. **9.00. Sherlock Holmes and the Baskerville Curse.** An animated version of the Conan Doyle novel. With the voices of Peter O'Toole, Helen Morse and Ron Haddick.

**10.10** **Take Two Christmas Special.** Josephine Buchan with young people's letters about BBC television programmes.

**10.50** **Film: Swallows and Amazons** (1974) starring Virginia McKenna and Ronald Fraser. 1920s adventures of children on a Lakeland holiday. Based on the novel by Arthur Ransome. Directed by Claude Whatham.

**12.20** **Junior Kick Start.** The final heat of the motorcycling competition for the Lombard Tricity Trophy. The commentators are Peter Purves and Jack Stites.

**12.50** **News** with Jan Leeming. Weather.

**1.00** **Ziggy's Gift.** Ziggy takes a job as a street corner Father Christmas and finds himself working for a confidence trickster (r).

**1.25** **Film: The Great Escape.** (1963) starring Steve McQueen, James Garner and Richard Attenborough. Second World War drama, based on fact, about an imaginative escape by inmates of a supposedly escape-proof German prisoner-of-war camp. A strong supporting cast includes James Coburn, Charles Bronson, Nigel Stock and Gordon Jackson. Directed by John Sturges.

**4.10** **Disney Time.** Excerpts from cartoons and animated films presented by Jan Francis.

**4.50** **Final Score.**

**5.05** **News** with Jan Leeming. Weather.

**5.15** **Comedy Classic: Open All Hours.** Arkwright, out for the day with his beloved Gladys, is caught with his trousers down (r).

**5.45** **Bob's Christmas Full House.** Electronic bingo game presented by Bob Monkhouse.

**6.20** **The Paul Daniels Magic Christmas Show.** A magical version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs with Debbie McGee and Fenella Fielding.

**7.10** **EastEnders.** Boxing Day, and Angie discovers who has been stealing in the Queen Vic; and Naima and Saeed have another meeting, this time in the cafe (Ceefax).

**7.40** **'Allo 'Allo!** General Von Klinkerhofen has taken charge of the area, and his death is planned by three separate malcontents – the Resistance, the Colonel, and Herr Flick (Ceefax).

**8.30** **In Sickness and in Health.** Alf and Else have to decide where to have Christmas dinner – with the vicar or at a pensioners' party at the pub. Meanwhile, Alf is trying to persuade daughter Rita to look after her parents over the holidays – but she, wisely, wants to get back to Liverpool.

**9.00** **Tenko Reunion.** A feature-length episode set five years on from the last series with the women attending a Singapore reunion, blissfully ignorant of an intrigue that will lead them to an involvement in treachery and murder (Ceefax).

**10.50** **News** with Jan Leeming. Weather.

**11.05** **Films of the Year.** Barry Norman reviews the year's releases and chooses his ten favourites.

**11.45** **Film: Strangers on a Train"** (1951) starring Farley Granger, Ruth Roman, Robert Walker and Leo G. Carroll. A Hitchcock-directed thriller about two young men who plot two perfect murders – each doing the other man's dirty deed. Based on Particia Highsmith's novel and adapted for the screen by Raymond Chandler and Czenzi Ormonde (Ceefax).

**1.25** **Weather.**

## BBC 2

**9.00** Ceefax

**10.35** **The Journey.** The ninth leg of playwright Peter Terson's and reporter Dennis Skillicorn's travels by gypsy wagon along the old pilgrims' route from Winchester to Canterbury. They visit Aylesford Priory and the Maidstone Carnival and pass through Hollingbourne where they meet the residents of a genuine gypsy *encampment* (r).

**11.05** **Film: The Horse Soldiers** (1959) starring John Wayne and William Holden. American Civil War drama about a Yankee colonel who is ordered to ride with his cavalry brigade 300 miles into Confederate-held country to cut a railway supply line. Directed by John Ford.

**1.00** **Magnusson's Iceland.** Magnus Magnusson is the guide on this tour of his birthplace. (r).

**1.50** **What's Up, Chuck?** Animator Chuck Jones presents three classic Daffy Duck cartoons.

**2.20** **Three in the Wild.** The second of three programmes about three of Britain's wild creatures features Mordicus the Buzzard, the youngest of three chicks born in a nest perched on the top of an *Exmoor beechwood* (r).



Judy Garland: 11.05 pm

**3.20** **The Adventures of Afanti.** Chinese comedy, set in Xinjiang, about a roguish folk hero.

**4.30** **Film: Touch of Evil"** (1958) starring Charlton Heston, Janet Leigh and Orson Welles. While on honeymoon, a narcotics investigator for the Mexican government becomes involved with a murder and a corrupt policeman. With a young Dennis Weaver in a cameo role. Directed by Orson Welles.

**6.15** **Sport 85** introduced by Harry Carpenter who looks back over Boris Becker's progress during the two week's of Wimbledon.

**7.15** **The American Film Institute Salute to Gene Kelly,** introduced by Shirley MacLaine. Contributions from a host of stars and excerpts from Kelly's best known films including Singin' in the Rain, An American in Paris and On the Town.

**8.30** **Film: La Traviata** (1982) starring Teresa Stratas and Placido Domingo. Verdi's romantic opera about a nobleman's love for a courtesan, lavishly adapted for the screen by Franco Zeffirelli. With the Metropolitan Opera Association Orchestra and Chorus. In Italian with English subtitles. Simultaneous broadcast in stereo on Radio 3.

**10.15** **Black Silk.** The final case for Larry Scott. A black woman accused of assault and robbery at the supermarket where she works is worried that her white in-laws will be given custody of her child if she is found guilty.

**11.05** **Film: The Pirate** (1948) starring Gene Kelly and Judy Garland. A Cole Porter musical set on a 19th century Caribbean island with Garland playing the pining Manuela and Kelly the dashing pirate Serafin. Directed by Vincente Minnelli.

**12.45** **Weather.**

## TV-am

**7.00** **Good Morning Britain** begins with a cartoon; **7.30** Flipper – adventures of a dolphin; **news** headlines at **8.00** followed by a pantomime – Frying Pan Meets Genie of the Kettle.

## ITV/LONDON

**9.25** **Fraggle Rock.** Adventures of a group of creatures living underneath a lighthouse (r). **9.50 Sooty Christmas Special** with Matthew Corbett. The guests are Richard Cadell and Bernie Clifton. **10.15 Santa Claus – The Movie: Behind the Scenes.** Sue Robbie is at Pinewood Studios where she talks to the star of the film, Dudley Moore, and watches the film crew at work.

**10.40** **Film: The Great Race** (1965) starring Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon, Natalie Wood, Peter Falk and Dorothy Provine. Comedy about the skulduggery connected with a 1900 motor car race from New York to Paris. Directed by Blake Edwards.

**1.25** **News** with Anne Leuchars.

**1.30** **First Annual Stuntman Awards.** Lee Majors introduces a tribute to the men and women who risk life and limb for the high-paid stars of the screen.

**2.40** **Film: Superman** (1978) starring Christopher Reeve, Margot Kedder, Gene Hackman and Marlon Brando. Breathtaking adventures of a newspaper reporter who, at any scent of trouble, turns into Superman, a being from the planet Krypton, endowed with superhuman powers. Directed by Richard Donner (Oracle).

**5.15** **News** and sport.

**5.30** **The Krypton Factor Christmas Celebrity Special.** Horsewoman Virginia Holgate; oarswoman Beryl Crockford; cricketer Richard Ellison; and karate champion Jeoff Thompson, are put through their paces by Gordon Burns (Oracle).

**6.00** **Crossroads** Adam and Jill disappear and there is a surprise party at the Hoopers.

**6.30** **This Is Your Life.** Someone who rates an extra quarter of an hour is shaken rigid by Eamonn Andrews and his big red book.

**7.15** **Give Us a Clue.** Celebrity charades game presented by Michael Parkinson. Una Stubbs and Lionel Blair are joined by Judith Chalmers, Frazer Hines, Ian Ogilvy, Jack Watling, Lizzie Webb and June Whitfield.

**7.45** **Coronation Street – The First Twenty-five Years.** A tribute to the twice-weekly soap as it celebrates its silver jubilee. With classic moments from past episodes (Oracle).

**8.45** **News** with Anne Leuchars.

**9.00** **Film: Who Dares Wins** (1982) starring Lewis Collins, Judy Davis, Richard Widmark and Edward Woodward. A British secret serviceman is killed while taking part in a CND march. It is thought he had knowledge of a proposed attack by the People's Lobby on a major institution and had paid the ultimate price for learning the secret. Another man is chosen to infiltrate the organisation – a Special Air Service soldier, Captain Peter Skellen. Directed by Ian Sharp.

**11.20** **Dizzy in Concert.** A royal gala performance in aid of the Royal School for the Blind in the presence of the Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, introduced by Benny Green. On the bill with the celebrated trumpeter are Marian Montgomery, Bud Shank, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

**12.20** **Christmas Night Thoughts** from St Mary's Church, Wimbledon, with Alec McCowen and Paul Miles Kingston. Ends at **12.30.**

## CHANNEL 4

**11.00** **Christ Stopped at Eboli.** Part one of a four-part version of Francesco Rosi's film, released in 1979, set in fascist Italy in 1935. Gian-Maria Volonte stars as Carlo Levi, a young doctor and painter who is banished from his Turin home for three years because of his opposition to the Mussolini regime. He chooses to spend his exile in Gagliano, a remote mountain village.

**12.00** **The Heart Has Its Reasons.** A profile of French Canadian Jean Vanier who, in 1964, founded L'Arche, a worldwide ecumenical community for mentally handicapped adults (r).

**12.55** **Channel Four Racing** from Kempton Park. Brough Scott presents coverage of four races – the Food Brokers-Armour Novices' hurdle (1.10); the Ladbroke Christmas *hurdle (1.40); the King George* VI Chase (2.15); and the Boxing Day handicap hurdle (2.45).

**3.00** **Film: The Rake's Progress"** (1945) starring Rex Harrison, Lilli Palmer and Godfrey Tearle. A comedy drama, inspired by Hogarth's prints, chronicling the amoral adventures of Vivian Kenway who eventually earns redemtion whilst serving in the Second World War. Directed by Frank Launder and Sidney Gilliat.

**5.20** **Christmas Cracker.** An award-winning animated film.

**5.30** **Incantation: Music of the Andes.** A quintet of classically trained musicians performing at ancient Inca sites of Bolivia and Peru.

**6.30** **News summary** and weather followed by **A Frame with Davies.** The first of a new series in which Steve Davis crosses cues with and chats to a number of celebrities beginning with Max Boyce and Emlyn Hughes (Oracle).

**7.00** **Treasure Hunt Special** from Miami. David Russell, principal teacher of physics at Liberton High School, Edinburgh, and his family, wife Betty, and sons, Brian and Neil, try to unravel five clues that will lead the helicopter-borne Anneka Rice to hidden treasure. Presented by Kenneth Kendall (Oracle).



Viv Richards: 8.00 pm

**8.00** **Viv.** A profile of the outstanding batsman of the age, Viv Richards. Filmed in his Antiguan homeland, Barbados and Britain.

**9.00** **Golden Hours and Sad Partings.** A film that recalls the halcyon summer days of the past, in particular in the small Normandy seaside resort of Villers-sur-Mer.

**10.00** **Film: A Delicate Balance** (1974) starring Katharine Hepburn, Paul Scofield and Lee Remick. Drama, based on Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize-winning stage play, about a dull, middle-class family living in Connecticut. The wife, Agnes, seems to dominate her weasal husband, Tobias, and to tolerate her alcoholic sister, Claire. But the status quo is disturbed one day with the arrival of the couple's two life-long friends and their daughter who has just left her fourth husband. With Kate Reid, Joseph Cottan and Betsy Blair. Directed by Tony Richardson. Ends at **12.30.**

## REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

**S4C** Starts 11.30am International Gymnastics. 12.30pm *Countdown*. 1.00 Racing from Kempton. 3.00 Film: Marx Brothers at the Circus". 4.35 Ffalabalam. 4.50 Esgid Lwc-Ein. 5.30 Citizen 2000. 6.00 Brookside. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.10 Bwrlwm Bro. 8.00 Penigamp y Nadolig. 8.30 Dinas. 9.00 Dwylo Dros y Mor. 10.00 Mind of *David Berglas*. 11.00 Film: Kiss Me Deadly". Mickey Spillane thriller. 12.55am Closedown.

**CENTRAL** As London except: 12.20am Closedown.

**CHANNEL** As London except: 12.20am Weather and Closedown.

**ULSTER** As London except: 12.20am News at Bedtime, followed by Closedown.

**HTV WEST** As London except: 12.20am Weather and Closedown.

**HTV WALES:** No variation.

**ANGLIA** As London except: 12.20am The Mystery of Christmas, followed by Closedown.

**TYNE TEES** As London except: 12.20am Unwanted gift. 12.25 Closedown.

**GRANADA** As London except: 12.20am Closedown.

**TVS** As London except: 12.20am Company, followed by Closedown.

**YORKSHIRE** As London except: 12.20am Closedown.

**BORDER** As London except: 12.20am Closedown.

**TSW** As London except: 12.20am Postscript. 12.25 Closedown.

**GRAMPIAN** As London except: 12.20am Reflections. *12.25* Closedown.

**SCOTTISH** As London except: 12.20am Late Call. 12.25 Closedown.

# Three-day radio guide

## CHRISTMAS EVE

### Radio 4

On long wave. † also VHF stereo.

**5.55** Shipping. **6.00** News; Christmas Prelude. Music selected by Michael Ford. **6.30** News; Farming Today. **6.55** Weather.
**7.00** News; Matins for Christmas Eve†.
**7.30** Today, incl 7.39 News. **7.45** Thought for the Day. **7.55** Weather. **8.00** News. **8.25** Sport.
**8.30** *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue.* Comical panel game (r)†.
**9.00** News.
**9.05** With Great Pleasure. Beryl Reid's Christmas Collection†.
**9.45** Christmas Under Capricorn. Barry Paine explores the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.
**10.25** Radio 4 Christmas Competition. A chance to hear the clues again.
**10.30** A Sideways look at . . . by Anthony Smith.
**10.45** The Fosdyke Saga (3) (r).
**11.00** News; Travel.
**11.05** Westward Ho! By Charles Kingsley, *abridged in six parts* (2) (r)†.
**12.00** News; Classic Features: Undergraduate Summer. An impression of summer term at Oxford University (r).
**12.30** Instant Sunshine . . . Seasonably together again. Special guests are *The Fine Art Brass Ensemble* (r)†. **12.55** Weather.
**1.00** The World at One: News.
**1.40** The Archers. **1.55** Shipping.
**2.00** News; The Way We Were. Stewart Macpherson, one of the BBC war correspondents, remembers the 8th May, 1945 (revised repeat).
**3.00** News; A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in King's College Chapel, Cambridge. The Organ Scholar is Richard Farnes, and the Director of Music is Stephen Cleobury.
**4.30** *Midnight Clear.* The story of one man's escape from the Santa Claustrophobia of the Christmas season.
**4.45** The Comcrake and the Lysander. Further memories of a boyhood in the Hebrides, by Finlay J. Macdonald.
**5.00** PM: News magazine.
**5.35** The Fosdyke Saga (4). **5.50** Shipping Forecast. **5.55** Weather.
**6.00** News.
**6.15** Wretchedness in Wrexham. A tale of seasonal misery by Robert Overton.
**6.30** Paul Temple and the Geneva Mystery. Episode 2. With Peter Coke and Marjorie Westbury (r).
**7.00** News.
**7.05** The Archers.
**7.20** Franglais. Miles Kington and team with a soap opera (r)†.
**7.30** *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll adapted for radio by John Wells. Polly James heads the cast as Alice (r)†.
**9.30** Station of the Stars. Noel Edmonds tells the story of Europe's oldest commercial radio station, Radio Luxembourg.
**10.15** A Book at Bedtime. A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens (7). Read by Martin Jarvis and Denise Bryer. **10.29** Weather.
**10.30** The World Tonight.
**11.00** News; On Father Christmas's Doorstep. Barry Paine unravels facts from fiction in Lapland (r).
**11.30** The First Communion of Christmas from Bradford Cathedral†. **12.33** Shipping.
VHF (available in England and S Wales only) as above except: **5.55-6.00am** Weather; Travel. **1.55-2.00** Listening Corner. Christmas Creatures: Ox, told by Dana.

### Radio 3

**6.55** Weather. **7.00** News.
**7.05** *Morning Concert:* Chausson's Soir de fête (RTBF); Waldteufel's Les Patineurs (Vienna Volksoper Orchestra); Tchelkovsky's Nutcracker Suite (Academy of St Martin-in-Fields)†. **8.00** News.
**8.05** Concert (cont'd): Rossini's overture *Il viaggio a Rheims* (National PO); Elgar's Three Bavarian Dances (Bournemouth Sinfonietta); Rimsky-Korsakov's suite Christmas Eve (SCO)†. **9.00** News.
**9.05** This Week's Composer: Ravel. The ballet Daphnis and Chloe (Montreal SO and Chorus).
**10.05** Wolfgang Manz: piano recital. Mozart's Fantasia in C minor, K 475; Beethoven's Sonata in C, Op 2 No 3; Slavicky's Three Pieces, 1949†.
**11.00** French Christmas Music: Poulenc's Four Christmas Motets; Saint-Saens's Oratorio de Noel (City of London Sinfonia). Richard Hickox Singers/soloists Bradshaw, Denley, Gunson, Hill and Roberts†.
**11.55** Julian Bream and John Williams: guitar music. Schubert's Duo in A minor (Quartet in G minor, D 173).†
**12.25** Berlin Philharmonic (under Karajan). Part one. Beethoven's Symphony No. 4†. **1.00** News.
**1.05** Concert: part two. Strauss's symphonic poem Ein Heldenlebent.
**2.00** Born 1685: Scarlatti's Sinfonia, trio and six arias. Narciaso and soloists Kwella, Fisher, Ian Partridge, Rogers; Bach's newly-discovered Chorale Preludes, including Herzliebster Jesu, was has du verbrochen (organists Weir, Danby and Scott). Four newly-discovered Handel arias including Sento primo le procelle (City of London Sinfonia and soloists); Bach choral preludes including Ach Gott, tu dich erbarmen (organists Weir, Danby and Scott); *Handel's Sinfonia and* Act 1, scenes 1 to 4 (Boston Early Music Festival Chorus and Orchestra and soloists)†.
**4.00** Beethoven, Schubert and Unknown Grieg: Ronald Thomas (violin), Raphael Wallfisch (cello), Anthony Goldstone (piano). Beethoven's Allegretto in B flat, WoO 39; Grieg's Andante con moto in C minor; Schubert's Trio in B flat, D 898†. **4.55** News.
**5.00** Tchelkovsky: a Fateful Gift; part 2. First Masterpiece. With Mike Gwilym as the composer (r)†.
**6.00** *Chopin: recordings by Kathryn* Stott (piano)†.
**8.30** John Ward: Consort of Musicke play madrigals from manuscript†.
**7.00** Brendel's Darwin Lecture: Alfred Brendel asks: Does classical music have to be entirely serious? (r).
**8.00** *The Brandenburg Concertos:* part one. Linde Consort play the No. 1; Academy of Ancient Music play the No. 3; Ensemble under Leonhardt play the No. 5†.
**8.55** Trollope on Tradesmen: John Rowe reads from the Pall Mall Gazette.
**9.10** The Brandenburg Concertos: part 2. English Concert play the No. 2; Vienna Concentus Musicus play the No. 6; Amsterdam Baroque play the No 4†.
**10.00** Jazz Today: presented by Charles Fox. The Peter King Quartet.
**11.00** Dvorak String Quartets: the E (Cyprusses No. 6); and the F minor, Op 9. Played by the Lindsay String Quartet†.
**11.35** Carols Ancient and Modern: with the Choir of Westminster Abbey and Christopher Herrick (organ)†.
**11.57** News. **12.00** Closedown.

### Radio 2

**4.00 am** Colin Berry. † **6.00** Dave Bussey. † **8.05** Ken Bruce. (s) † **10.30** Ray Moore returns to his home town of Liverpool. † **1.05 pm** David Jacobs. † **2.00** Gloria Hunniford. † **3.30** The Barron Knights. † **4.00** David Hamilton. † **6.00** Sinatra! A Man and His Music. **7.00** Hubert Gregg says I Call it Genius (Walt Disney). **8.00** The Night before *Christmas (music and poetry).* † **9.00** The Yetties' Dorset Christmas. † **9.30** A Good Night Out (2) Dancing with My Shadow. **10.00** The Good Christmas Guide. (National Revue Company). **11.00** Christmas Top 20 (Roy Castle). **12.05am** Bill Rennells presents Nightride. **3.00-4.00** A Little Night Music. †

### Radio 1

**6.0 am** Adrian John. **8.00** Mike Read. **10.00** Simon Bates. **12.30 pm** Newsbeat (Ian Parkinson) **12.45** Gary Davies. **3.00** *Steve Wright and Janice Long.* **5.30** Newsbeat (Ian Parkinson). **5.45** Bruno Brooks. **7.30** Janice Long. **10.0-12.00** Gary Byd's Christmas Inspiration.(†)

## CHRISTMAS DAY

### Radio 4

On long wave. † Also VHF stereo.

**5.55** Shipping. **6.00**News; Christmas Prelude selected by Michael Ford. **6.50** The Christmas Story. read by Timothy West. **6.55**Weather; Travel. **7.00** News. **7.05** On a Christmas Morning. *Stories and legends of Christmas animals.*† **7.25** Christmas Bells. **7.50** The Christmas Story. Timothy West reads the story of the Nativity. **7.55** Weather; Travel. **8.00** News.
**8.05** Dr Finlay's Casebook. With the original cast (r).†
**8.50** Radio 4 Christmas Competition. A chance to hear the clues again. **8.55** Weather; Travel.
**9.00** News.
**9.05** Treasures and Trifles. Tall tales and short verses about antiques and curios (r).
**9.30** The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth.†
**9.35** Morning Service from Rosemary Presbyterian Church, Belfast.
**10.30** A Sideways Look At . . . by Anthony Smith.
**10.45** The Fosdyke Saga (5).†
**11.00** News; Travel.
**11.05** Westward Ho! by Charles Kingsley, abridged in six parts (3) (r).†
**12.00** News; Classic Features: A Week in a Chalet Land. An investigation into holiday camps (r).
**12.30** *After Henry. A Week of Sundays* starring Prunella Scales (r).† **12.55** Weather.
**1.00** The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth (r).†
**1.05** News.
**1.10** Smash of the Day: Steptoe and Son starring Wilfrid Brambell and Harry H. Corbett (r).†
**1.40** The Archers. **1.55** Shipping.
**2.00** Home for Christmas. William Douglas Home's The Reluctant Debutante with Anna Massey, Terence Alexander, Prunella Scales and others. †
**3.30** Once Upon A Time. Jack and the Beanstalk. With Sue MacGregor (r).†
**4.00** The Four Seasons. Summer. Caroline Parsons looks forward to long summer days.
**4.45** The Comcrake and the Lysander. *Further memories of a Hebrides* boyhood, by Finlay J. Macdonald.
**5.00** Winter at Deepdale. Phil Smith takes to the hills (r).
**5.30** The Fosdyke Saga. Episodes 6 and 7. **5.50** Shipping. **5.55** Weather.
**6.00** News.
**6.05** Richard Baker on the value of radio to those who are blind.
**6.10** Radio 4 Christmas Competition. Another chance to hear the clues.
**6.15** Adrian Mole at Christmas (1). Art Culture and Politics. Performed by Nicholas Barnes.
**6.30** Paul Temple and the Geneva Mystery (3). A Note for Danny (r).
**7.00** News.
**7.05** *The Archers.*
**7.20** Franglais. Miles Kington and team with a soap opera (r)†.
**7.30** Through the Looking Glass and What Alice found there by Lewis Carroll, adapted by John Wells. Polly James heads the cast†.
**9.50** Call Sign WELD. Jean Snedegar reports on a small radio station notorious for its mistakes (r)†.
**10.15** The Three Wise Guys. Stubby Kaye reads the story by Damon Runyon. **10.29** Weather.
**10.30** News.
**10.35** A Pipe Dream No More. Nigel Holmes was there as the new pipe-organ, in Wetheral Parish Church, Cumbria, came to life.
**11.00** The Joy of Christmas. A meditation by the Most Rev Derek Worlock, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool.
**11.15** Incredible Flautists. William Kincaid plays music by Mozart, Telemann, Caplet and Hindemith (r).
**11.30** Diary of a Provincial Lady by E. M. Delafield, (3), Reader: Anna Massey.
**12.00** *News, Weather.* **12.33** Shipping.
VHF (available in England and S Wales only) as above except: **5.55-6.00am** Weather; Travel. **1.55-2.00pm** Listening Corner. Christmas Creatures: Dove, told by Dana.

### Radio 3

**6.55** Weather. **7.00** News.
**7.05** Concert: Vejvanovsky's Sonata natalis (Academy of Ancient Music); Mozart's Horn Concerto No 4 (Academy of St Martin-in-Fields); Gershwin's Second Rhapsody (Los Angeles PO and Michael Tilson Thomas (piano); Lalande's Premier caprice (Orchestral Ensemble of Paris).**8.00** News.
**8.05** *Concert (cont):* Gossec's Christmas Suite (Academy of Ancient Music); Wagner's Siegfried Idyll (ECO); Finzi's In terra pax (New Philharmonia/John Alldis Choir/soloists); Messiaen's Diau parmi nous (Murray, organ).**9.00** News.
**9.05** This Week's Composer: Ravel. Valses nobles et sentimentales (Dallas SO); *Le tombeau de* Couperin (Academy of St Martin-in-Fields); the choreographic poem La Valse (Suisse Romande).†
**10.05** Bach Cantatas: 1724. The No 91 (Collegium Vocale, *Ghent/Leonhardt* Consort/Hanover Boys' Choir/soloists).†
**10.25** Christmas Day Fantasies: Britten's Men of Goodwill (Minnesota Orchestra); Prokofiev's ballet Cinderella, excerpts (Suisse Romande); Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on Christmas Carols (LSO)/Choir of King's College, Cambridge/Harvey Alan, baritone).†
**11.15** Brandis Quartet of Berlin: Beethoven's A minor quartet, Op 132.†
**12.05** Wand's Schubert: BBC SO under Wand perform the Symphony No 9.**1.00** News.
**1.05** Fauré and Ravel: Beaux Arts Trio, Fauré's Trio in D minor, Op 120; Ravel's in A minor.†
**2.00** *Mahler:* Amsterdam Concertgebouw under Haitink play the Symphony No. 7.†
**3.30** A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: from King's College Chapel, Cambridge. First heard on Radio 4 yesterday. (r).†
**5.00** *Christmas Choice: Field's Piano* Concerto No 3 (John O'Connor and the New Irish CO); Schubert's Six Songs (Fischer-Dieskau, baritone Britten, piano); Albinoni's Trumpet Concerto in C (Academy of St Martin-in-Fields, with John Wilbraham, trumpet); Glazunov's ballet Les ruses d'amour (BBC SO).†
**7.00** Bach Christmas Oratorio. Cantata for First Day of Christmas (Collegium St Emmeram / Regensburger Domspatzen, and soloists).†
**7.30** Haydn: The LPO play the Symphony No 99.†
**8.00** From the Aldeburgh Festival 1985: Capricorn, with Marilyn Hill Smith (soprano) and Richard Jackson (piano). Mahler's Lieder eines Fahrenden Gesellen; Franz *Schmidt's Piano Quintet in G;* Malcolm Williamson's Serenade for flute, piano, violin, viola and cello; Strauss's Czardas, Die Fledermaus; Lehar's Serenade. Frasquita; Kalman's duet Tanzen, mocht ich (Gypsy Princess); Wolf-Ferrari's Mirror-Aria from School for Fathers; Strauss's Watch Duet, Die Fledermaus.†
**9.45** Cinderella: H J Byron's Christmas panto, presented by the Players' Theatre, London. With Patricia Routledge, Jenny Wren (title role), Ann Beach, Dilys Laye, Edward de Souza, David Learner, Alec Bregonzi, Clifton Todd, Anne Jameson, Jane *Leonard and Julia Sutton.*†
**11.10** Bach: Magnificat in E flat, BMW 243a. (Richard Hickox Orchestra and Singers/Alistair Ross, chamber organ/soloists Burrowes, Esswood, Langridge and Roberts).†
**11.57** News. **12.00** Closedown.

### Radio 2

News on the hour (except **10.00am, 2.00pm, 4.00, 8.00**) Major bulletin **12 midnight. 4.00am** Colin Berry. **6.00** Dave Bussey. **7.30** Roger Royle in Bethlehem. **9.00** Ken Bruce incl **8.45** Pause for Thought, incl **10.00** The Queen. **11.00** Syd Lawrence in concert at Christmas. With The Beverley Sisters. **12.00** The News Huddlines Christmas Crackers.† **12.30pm** Hancock's Half Hour: *Bill and Father Christmas.*† **1.00** Judith Chalmers.† **3.00** Ray Conniff talks to Ray Moore. **4.00** BBC Radio Orchestra.† **5.00** Sweet Liza! Musical by Hubert Gregg. **6.00** Sinatra: A Man and His Music. (2) The Tower on Sunset and Vine. **7.00** A Victorian Evening (Robert *Tear and Benjamin Luxon*). **7.45-8.05** Interval (Desmond Carrington). **9.00** Melachrino at Christmas.† **9.30** A Good Night Out (3).† **10.00** Ian Wooldridge's Sporting Year 1985. **11.00** Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight (stereo from midnight). **1.00am** Bill Rennells presents Nightride. **3.00-4.00** A Little Night Music.†

### Radio 1

**6.0 am** Adrian John. **8.00** Peter Powell with children in hospitals incl at **9.30** The Queen. **10.00** Simon Bates's Solid Gold. **1.00 pm** Mike Read's christmas dinner. **3.00** Paul Jordan. **5.00** Peace on Earth. **5.30** Around the World in 30 plays. (Mike Read, Paul Gambaccini and John Walters). **7.30** The Rankin Miss P's Christmas Special (featuring Bobby *Womack and his band*). **10.00-12.00** John Peel's Festive 50. †.

## BOXING DAY

### Radio 4

On long wave. † also VHF stereo.

*5.55* Shipping. *6.00* News; *Prelude*†. **6.30** News; Farming Today. **6.55** Weather.
**7.00** News; Seeing is Believing. With the BBC Singers†.
**7.30** A Fantastic Year. Glyn Worsnip in the BBC Sound Archives, incl **8.00** News.
**8.30** I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue (r)†.
**9.00** News.
**9.05** With Great Pleasure. Sir Michael Hordern's choice of poetry and prose (r)†.
**9.45** When the Pictures Began to Move. Film making in Brighton and Hove in the 1890s (stereo/binaural).
**10.30** A Sideways Look at . . . by Anthony Smith.
**10.45** The Fosdyke Saga. Episode 8.
**11.00** News; Travel.
**11.05** Westward Ho! by Charles Kingsley (4) (r)†.
**12.00** News; Classic Features: 'People Talking – The Talking Streets'. Life in the back streets of a northern city in 1958 (r).
**12.30** Peace, Brotherly Love and Punch in the Mouth, by Richard Stilgoe with songs by Peter Skellern (r)†. *12.55 Weather.*
**1.00** News.
**1.05** Radio 4 Christmas Competition. Another chance to hear the clues.
**1.10** Nuts for Christmas. Feature about a couple who run a collection of items connected with Christmas (r).
**1.40** The Archers. **1.55** Shipping.
**2.00** Home for Christmas. William Douglas Home's 'The Kingfisher', starring Wendy Hiller, Michael Hordern and Robert Eddisont.
**3.30** Once Upon A Time 'Rumplestiltskin' with Margaret Howard, John Timpson, Richard Baker and others. †
**4.00** News.
**4.05** The Four Seasons Autumn. With Caroline Parsons.
**4.45** The Comcrake And The Lysander, Finlay J Macdonald's memories of a Hebrides boyhood.
**5.00** News.
**5.05** The Wrenboys Of Dingle. The boisterous custom of hunting the wren on St Stephen's Day.
**5.35** The Fosdyke Saga. Episode 9. **5.50** Shipping. **5.55** Weather.
**6.00** News.
**6.05** A Breath Of Fresh Air. Frank Dunlop takes a walk in Edinburgh.
**6.15** Adrian Mole At Christmas (2). A Mole In Moscow. With Nicholas Barnes (r).
**6.30** *Paul Temple And The Geneva* Mystery (4) (r).
**7.00** News.
**7.05** The Archers.
**7.20** Franglais. Soap opera with Miles Kington and team (r) †
**7.30** The Secret Agent by Joseph Conrad. With Michael Bilton, David March and Stanley Lebor (r) †
**9.30** Joy To The World. Carols and readings. †
**10.15** Midnight Clear. One man's escape from the 'Santa Claustrophobia' of the Christmas season (r). **10.29** Weather.
**10.30** News.
**10.35** Private Lives. Ian McKellen and Judi Dench in an extract from Act 2 of Noel Coward's play (r) †.
**11.00** The Humility Of Christmas. Meditation by The Most Rev Derek Worlock, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool. †
**11.15** Incredible Flautists. Elaine Shaffer plays music by Mozart, Bach, Schubert, Kuhlau and Copland. †.
**11.30** Diary Of A Provincial Lady by E M Delafield. Reader: Anna Massey.
*12.00 News; Weather. 12.33 Shipping.*
**12.33** Shipping.
VHF (available in England and S Wales only) as above except: **5.55-6.00am** Weather; Travel **1.55-2.00pm** Listening Corner. Christmas Creatures: Sheep, told by *Dana.*

### Radio 3

**6.55** Weather. **7.00** News.
**7.05** Morning Concert: Bantock's overture Pierrot of the Minute (Bournemouth Sinfonietta); Hummel's Trumpet Concerto (Marsalis/National PO); Respighi's Fountains of Rome (San Francisco SO); Chabrier's Joyeuse marche (French National Orchestra).† **8.00** News.
**8.05** Concert (contd): Tchaikovsky's Marche slave (Detroit SO); Debussy's La boite a joujoux (Basle SO); Elgar's Dream Children (Bournemouth Sinfonietta).† **9.00** News.
**9.05** This Week's Composer: Ravel. Tzigane (Kyung-wha Chung/RPO); ballet music Ma Mere l'Oye (LSO); Bolero (Chicago SO).†
**10.00** Bach Cantatas: the No 121 (Munich Bach Orchestra/soloists Mathis, Reynolds, Schreier and Fischer-Dieskau).†
**10.25** *Bernard Roberts: piano recital.* Beethoven's Variations in F, Op 34; Fauré's Nocturne No 4; Impromptu No 3; Rachmaninov's Elegie Op 3 No 1; Polka de W.R.†
**11.05** Mendelssohn and Mozart: BBC Scottish SO (under Bamert). Mendelssohn's overture Ruy Blas and Mozart's Symphony No 29.†
**11.40** Tenor and piano: Robert Tear and Philip Ledger in Schumann's Liederkreis; Radcliffe's The White Peace and other songs.†
**12.20** Tchaikovsky Concert in Salzburg: Vienna Philharmonic (under Karajan) with Anne Sophie-Mutter (violin). Part one. Violin Concerto.† **1.00** News.
**1.05** Concert (contd): Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 4.†
**1.50** Domenico Scarlatti: Alan Cuckston (harpsichord) plays the Sonatas in F, D minor, B flat and G minor and F (Kk 483, 92, 112, 93 and 542).†
**2.15** Schubertiade at Hohenems 1985: Elly Ameling (soprano), Rudolf Jansen (piano), Sabine Meyer (clarinet). Works include Im Fruhling and *Das Lied im Grunen*; and the second setting of An den Mond.†
**3.20** Youth Orchestras of the World: Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra. Weber's Oberon overture; Morawetz's *Passacaglia on Bach Chorale*; Bloch's Concerto Grosso No 1; Prokofiev's Symphony No 5.†
**4.55** News.
**5.00** Tchaikovsky: A Fateful Gift (3). The Nationalist. With Mike Gwilym as the composer (r).†
**6.00** Chopin: Perlemuter piano recital.†
**6.30** Bandstand: Lewis Merthyr Band.†
**7.00** Bach: Christmas Oratorio. Cantata for Second Day of Christmas (Collegium Emmeram/Regensburger Domspatzan and soloists).†
**7.30** Bach and Schumann: Jana Frenklova (piano). Bach's Concerto in Italian Style, BWV 971; Schumann's Symphonic Studies, Op 13.†
**8.25** *La traviata:* Franco Zeffirelli's film (see BBC 2).†
**10.20** Music in Our Time: Electro-acoustic music, including Sambell's Metal harmonics; David Jaffe's Silicon Valley Breakdown; Charles Dodge's Any Resemblance is Purely Coincidental.†
**11.15** Balakirev: USSR SO play the symphonic poem Tamar.†
**11.40** *Are You Still Awake? Russell* Davies's two hander. with Michael Denison and Dulcie Gray
**11.57** News. **12.00** Closedown.

### Radio 2

**4.00** Colin Berry.† **6.00** Dave Bussey.† **8

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# Sikorsky waits as Westland views deal

Continued from page 1

on certain issues. "We are glad that it is getting full consideration. This is not something which has been botched together. If they need time to look at it we fully understand", sources said last night.

There was concern, however, that the shareholders should be given full information about the European deal before the vital January 14 meeting.

The Cabinet battle between Mr Heseltine and Mr Leon Britten, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, continued yesterday to provide some welcome Christmas ammunition for the opposition.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow Home Secretary, said the future of an important national asset was being fought over in a rough house atmosphere which was worse than a "pub brawl".

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said the current activity on the part of ministers should have been started six months ago. What Mr Heseltine had woken up to was the fact that if they sold all the technology to the United States, Britain's future relationship in Nato was a wholly subservient one.

● Libya's interest in Fiat has not prevented the Italian motor and aviation company from playing a leading role in a number of other multi-national projects for producing military and civilian aircraft (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Fiat frequently teams up with Rolls-Royce as well as with companies in the US, France and West Germany to produce aircraft engines.

● A Fiat official in Turin yesterday described as "simply crazy" any allegation that the Libyan leader Colonel Gadaffi would have influence in Westland if the Fiat United Technologies deal goes through.

The Libyan investment, amounts to nearly 14 per cent of the Fiat equity. It was a purely financial involvement the Fiat official said.

If the Fiat-United Technology offer is accepted, Fiat will have 14.9 per cent of Westland and official said. The Libyan interest would thus be about 14 per cent of 14 per cent – "an absolute minority".

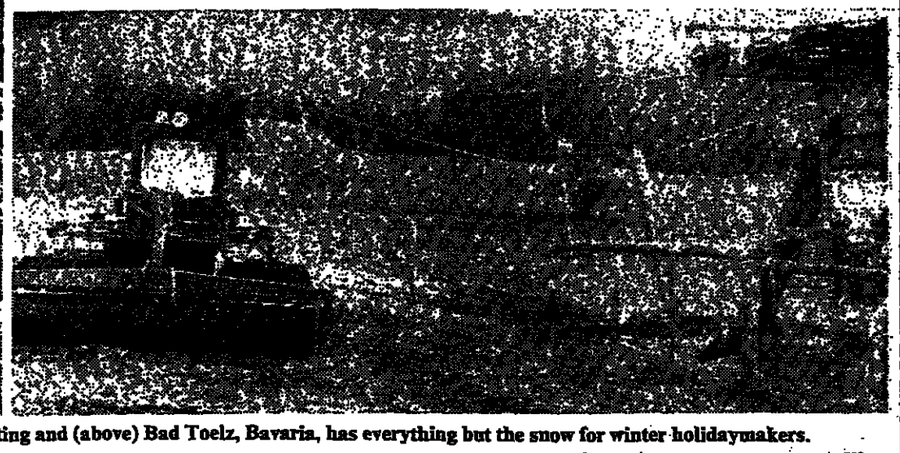
Geoffrey Smith, page 2
Leading article, page 9

# Skiers dream of Christmas turning white





Titlis mountain, near Lucerne: ski-lifts hang motionless in snow-less scene.



Glencoe, Scotland (left): lifts are ready and waiting and (above) Bad Toelz, Bavaria, has everything but the snow for winter holidaymakers.

Ski resorts are turning to snow-making machines, on the Continent, and plastic slopes, in Britain, to keep their customers happy in the absence, so far, of winter.

A mere half-dozen of about 50 Swiss winter resorts are reporting as much as 50cm of snow on the ski runs, and some of that has been made to order by the "snow cannons" which more and more places are finding it necessary to install. They manufacture snow out of water. One resort, Saas-Fee, is congratualting itself on having just bought 68. Yet even those need a temperature of at least −3°C, and preferably colder, for a satisfactory product. Conditions in the French Alps are similar.

Two of the better runs are the super St Bernard (60cm hard but practicable) and the Diablerets glacier (100cm, powdery, good). Hardly anywhere can skiers hope to reach the resort terminus of the lifts and cableways without walking down the last stretch.

At St Moritz (30cm, practicable but difficult) skiers can console themselves that the lake has frozen over for the first time in 12 years, offering unlimited free skating.

Hotel reservations are being taken up for the most part, many skiers remembering what happened a year ago when similarly sparse cover was relieved by heavy falls from Christmas onwards.

Most out-of-pocket are the ski-lift companies, some putting their daily loss at more than £10,000.

Meanwhile in the Scottish Highlands, the best skiing to be had was on the slope of plastic "snow" at the Aviemore centre. On Cairngorm mountain the main runs were closed because of lack of snow and winds gusting to more than 80mph on the summit.

In the valley one ski instructor complained: "If that film *How Green is My Valley* was showing at the Aviemore cinema it would be entirely appropriate."

The forecast over the Christmas period is for little change. At the Glenmore Lodge national outdoor training centre Mr Roger O'Donovan, acting principal, said: "All the early courses are heavily booked both for snow and ice mountaineering and cross country skiing but at this stage we are not cancelling anything. The pattern of over the past three years has been for things to look pretty bleak over Christmas and then to come up trumps with a lot of snow first thing in the New Year."

Even so, British travel companies report heavy bookings for skiing holidays this year, and no spate of cancellations because of the weather.

One big tour company said: "A lot of people who go to the ski resorts seldom ski anyway. They go horse riding or walk, and they look forward to the winter treat of being snugly shuttered in, with huge log fires, hot spiced wine, and good company around the table."

## Letter from Seoul

# Chill winds bring cold comfort

Seoul's night-time skyline is normally dotted with dozens of multi-coloured flourescent church crosses but this Christian finds many of them dimmed.

The Siberian winds that slice across the country, bringing the bitter cold that seeps into the bones, arrived early this year following quickly behind the chilliest economic outlook for a decade.

Department stores and hotels have switched off elaborate Christmas decorations in response to government pleas for energy conservation. Shops are far from crowded as the holiday season approaches and the mood is one of gloom in a people who are, by nature, given to expressing their emotions quite openly by Asian standards.

But the feeling of depression goes much further than the loss of a few Christmas decorations.

Along pavements in some parts of the city impromptu stalls have been set up with the sign "heartbreak sale" over the top. Small Korean companies are trying to sell off the photograph albums they can no longer export to the United Stes.

The sales of the albums have suffered because of a 64.8 per cent ant-dumping duty and that coupled with an economy that is positively sluggish by Korea's high-flying standards, is among the causes of the gloom.

Koreans have been shocked by the American ruling because, whatever the rights and wrongs, it strikes right at the heart of the capitalism that the Koreans have been so assiduous in learning from the West.

The albums are not made by the big conglomerates which control so much of Korea's trade, but by small businesses built up in people's living rooms. "Why Korea?" Asks the hadlines in magazines and newspapers.

There are only a handful of companies involved but already most of them have either gone out of business or drastically reduced their workforces at a time when Korea is trying to encourage the small entrepreneur and reduce its over-dependence on the conglomerates.

To Koreans this is much more than an attack on what they consider small, defenceless businesses by their closest friends. It has thrown them into an anguished reading of the portents, which has dented their self-confidence quite dramatically.

After decades of unrelenting hard work (the International Labour Organization counts Koreans the most hard-working people in the world) Koreans were beginning to believe they had made it. Suddenly they feel repudiated by the very instructors who had urged them to be what they have become.

South Korea, in common with some other newly developed Asian countries, has a low quotient of self-confidence, despite the appearances to the contrary. But for the Koreans there is the extra historical dimension.

Korea has always been under pressure from larger or more aggressive neighbours, often from cultures and countries with a shorter history than their own.

Over the centuries China has been a big and generally unfriendly neighbour while the Japanese invaded and sought to enslave Koreans. Even today, as the two compete for markets in America, the relationship is still prickly: both list the other as the most hated nation.

The relationship with the US has been happiest of all the contacts with the West to which Korea irrevocably committed itself. But older Koreans still think in Confucian terms for all their modernization. America is the teacher or "elder brother". That commits Washington to a role in Korean eyes, not merely of ally and friend but of overall responsibility for the "student's" welfare. And the imposition of such a swingeing tariff can only mean that the American Government, at the highest levels, is dissatisfied with the Korean student.

This quickly translates into a feeling of self-doubt and insecurity.

**David Watts**

# THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

## Today's events

Most art galleries and museums are closed over the Christmas holiday, and few open again on Friday, December 27. It is advisable to check before visiting.

### Last chance to see

**London:**

Paintings, drawings and etchings by Michael Chase and Valerie Thornton; Anthony Dawson, 41 Lillian Rd, Barnes, 10 to 6.

Christmas collection; Odette Gilbert Gallery, 5 Cork St, W1.

Watercolours by Christopher Ryland: The Garden Gallery, Monson Rd, New Cross Gate, SE14.

Christmas exhibition of flowers; Gallery 10, 10 Grosvenor St, W1, 10 to 5.30.

Birds, Beasts and Animals; Cadogan Gallery, 17 Pont St, SW1, 9.30 to 7.

Paintings and works on paper by Helen Moslin: The Original Picure Shop, 33 Mossop St, SW3, 11 to 7.

**The Provinces**

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh: The Gallery, Finkle St, Knaresborough, 10.30 to 5.

Oils, watercolours and ceramics by Dora Holzhandler; Beaux Arts, York St, Bath, 10 to 5.

Hollywood Has Beens – original *American movie posters*; Art and Research Exchange, 22 Lombard St, Belfast, 10 to 5.30.

Paintings by Richard Constable; Blake Gallery, Georges Lane, Crewkerne, 10 to 4.

### Carols

Canterbury Cathedral, 3; St Albans Cathedral, 8; York Minster, 4; Bristol Cathedral, 3.30; St Olave's, Marygate, York, 5.30; St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Sq, London WC2, 1.05 and 6.30.

### Midnight Services

Westminster Abbey, 11.30; Southwark Cathedral, 11.30; Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, SW1, 11.30; Tower of London, 11.30; St Clement Danes, Strand, 11.30; Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, 11.30; All Hallows by the Tower, Byward St, EC2, 11.30; All Saints, Margaret St, W1 12; All Souls, Langham Place, W1, 11.30; Chelsea Old Church, SW3, 11.30; Christ Church, Chelsea, SW3, 11.30; Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley St, W1, 12; Holy Trinity, Brompton Rd, SW7, 11.30; St Bartholomew-the-Great, Smithfield, 11.45; St Bride's, Fleet St, 11.30; St Cuthbert's, Philbeach Gardens, SW5, 11.45; St James's, Piccadilly, 11.30; St Luke's, Chelsea, SW3, 11.30; St Margaret's, Westminster, 11.45; St Martin-in-the-Fields, WC2, 11.30; St Mary's, Bourne St, SW1, 11.40; St Michael's, Chester Sq, SW1, 11.30; St Paul's, Wilton Place, SW1, 11.30; St Peter's, Eaton Sq, SW1, 11.45; St Columba's, Pont St, SW1, 11.30;

## Anniversaries

TODAY

**Births:** John, reigned 1199-1216, Oxford, 1167 (?); George Crabbe, poet, Aldeburgh, 1754; Matthew Arnold, poet and critic, Laleham, Middlesex, 1822; Juan Ramon Jimenez, poet, Nobel laureate 1956, Moguer, Spain, 1881. **Deaths:** Vasco da Gama, navigator, Cochin, Kerala, India, 1524; William Makepeace Thackeray, London, 1863; Alban Berg, composer, Vienna, 1935.

CHRISTMAS DAY

**Births:** Sir Isaac Newton, Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire, 1642; William Collins, poet, Chichester, 1721; Dorothy Wordsworth, Cockermouth, Cumbria, 1771; Mohammed Ali Jinnah, creator of Pakistan, Karachi, 1876; Maurice Utrillo, painter, Paris, 1883. **Deaths:** Karel Capek, writer, Prague, 1938; W. C. Fields, Pasadena, California, 1946; Sir Charles (Charlie) Chaplin, Geneva, 1977. The Mayflower with the Pilgrim Fathers on board landed at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, 1620.

BOXING DAY

**Births:** Thomas Gray, poet, Cambridge, 1716; Charles Babbage, pioneer of computers, Teignmouth, 1792. **Deaths:** John Wilkes, journalist and politician, London, 1797. Harry S. Truman, 33rd president of the USA 1945-53, Kansas City, 1972. Today is the Feast of Saint Stephen.

## The pound

| | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
|---|---|---|
| Australia $ | 2.19 | 2.05 |
| Austria Sch | 28.20 | 24.80 |
| Belgium Fr | 76.45 | 72.65 |
| Canada $ | 2.082 | 1.972 |
| Denmark Kr | 13.54 | 12.84 |
| Finland Mkk | 8.14 | 7.74 |
| France Fr | 11.37 | 10.82 |
| Germany DM | 3.71 | 3.53 |
| Greece Dr | 285.00 | 255.00 |
| Hong Kong $ | 11.40 | 10.90 |
| Ireland Pt | 1.21 | 1.16 |
| Italy Lire | 2525.00 | 2405.00 |
| Japan Yen | 303.00 | 287.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 4.18 | 3.98 |
| Norway Kr | 11.37 | 10.82 |
| Portugal Esc | 257.00 | 225.00 |
| South Africa Rd | 4.10 | 3.85 |
| Spain Pta | 229.50 | 217.00 |
| Sweden Kr | 11.42 | 10.87 |
| Switzerland Fr | 3.12 | 2.96 |
| USA $ | 1.49 | 1.42 |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | 555.00 | 475.00 |

Retail Price Index: 378.4.

London: The *FT*-index closed up 4.9 at 1113.5.

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## TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending December 15:

**BBC 1**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | EastEnders (Thu/Sun), 20.20m | |
| 2 | EastEnders (Tue/Sun), 19.50m | |
| 3 | Only Fools and Horses . . ., 13.45m | |
| 4 | Porridge, 13.40m | |
| 5 | Dynasty, 13.00m | |
| 6 | Blankety Blank, 12.85m | |
| 7 | Don't Wait Up, 12.60m | |
| 7 = | News, Sport, Weather (Sat 20.39), 12.60m | |
| 9 | Juliet Bravo, 12.50m | |
| 10 | Bergerac, 12.40m | |

**ITV**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Coronation Street (Mon), Granada, 16.10m | |
| 2 | Coronation Street (Wed), Granada, 15.80m | |
| 3 | Crossroads (Tue), Central, 13.85m | |
| 4 | Blind Date, LWT, 13.25m | |
| 5 | Crossroads (Wed), Central, 12.60m | |
| 6 | The Bill, Thames, 12.50m | |
| 6= | Emmerdale Farm (Tue), Yorkshire, 12.50m | |
| 8 | Copy Cats, LWT, 12.45m | |
| 9 | On Golden Pond, ITV, 12.40m | |
| 10 | Hopscotch, ITV, 12.35m | |

**BBC 2**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Fawlty Towers, 9.50m | |
| 1 = | Warming Up, 9.50m | |
| 3 | Food and Drink, 4.80m | |
| 4 | The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin, 4.50m | |
| 5 | Edge of Darkness, 4.45m | |
| 6 | Star Trek, 4.15m | |
| 7 | Mustang Country, 3.80m | |
| 8 | Call My Bluff, 3.50m | |
| 9 | The Devil's Canyon, 3.40m | |
| 10 | The Natural World, 3.25m | |

**Channel 4**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Brookside (Tue/Sat), 6.10m | |
| 2 | Brookside (Mon/Sat), 5.70m | |
| 3 | Singleton's Pluck, 4.15m | |
| 4 | Countdown (Fri), 3.45m | |
| 5 | American Football, 3.40m | |
| 6 | The Trial of Chaplain Jensen, 3.35m | |
| 7 | The Gong Show, 3.25m | |
| 8 | Hill Street Blues, 3.20m | |
| 9 | Countdown (Tue), 2.95m | |
| 9= | Adultery, 2.95m | |

Figures for the week ending December 15 show the following percentages of viewing:

| | BBC-1 | BBC-2 | Total BBC | ITV | C4 | Total ITV |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All hours | 35.9 | 7.9 | 43.8 | 47.7 | 8.5 | 56.2 |
| Before 6pm | 31.1 | 3.7 | 34.8 | 55.1 | 10.1 | 65.2 |
| After 6pm | 38.4 | 10.0 | 48.4 | 44.0 | 7.6 | 51.6 |

Breakfast television: The average weekly figures for audiences at peak times (with figures in parentheses showing the reach – the number of people who viewed for at least three minutes):

BBC1: *Breakfast Time*: Mon to Fri 1.4m (6.8m). TV-am: *Good Morning Britain*: Mon to Fri 2.4m (10.0m); Sat 2.6m, Sun 1.5m (Sat or Sun (6.4m).

Broadcasters' Audience Research Board.

## Bond winners

The winning numbers in the weekly draw for £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000 Premium Bond prizes, are: £100,000: 8AF 325358. (the winner lives in Essex); £50,000: 6EP 376567 (Cornwall); £25,000: 8AB 054172 (Stirlingshire).

## Holiday travel

Pre-recorded travel information on Travel-rail: 01-246 8030; road: 01-246 8031; sea: 01-246 8032; air: 01-246 8033.

### *Road*

Some major roadworks will be suspended until after Christmas. Many petrol stations close for the Christmas holidays.

Wales and West: M4: Two sets of contraflow between junction 22 and 24 (Chepstow to Newport) (changed layout); delays at times. M5: Hard shoulder and inside lane closed southbound at junction 10 (Cheltenham). M3: Resurfacing between junction 26 (Wellington) Taunton, and 27 (Tiverton/Wellington); hard shoulder, inside and centre lanes closed on both carriageways.

The North: M61: Blacow Bridge: lane closures until 1986 at junction of new motorway link on M61, Walton summit. M63/M62–Eccles interchange, Greater Manchester: Widening work N of Barton Bridge. M18: S Yorks–Doncaster–Sheffield link road, full closure until March 1986. M180: Contraflow between junction 3 (M180/M181) and junction 4 (Ermine Street interchange), Scunthorpe, Humberside. Queensway Tunnel: The old Mersey tunnel between Liverpool and Birkenhead will be closed from 8 am tomorrow until 6 am on Dec 26. M16: Slip road to M1 northbound closed at junction 32 (Doncaster).

Scotland: M8: Inside lane closures eastbound W of junction 5 (Shotts Hill). M74: Southbound carriageway closed between junctions 4 and 3 (Hamilton/Motherwell/Larkhall); two-way on northbound carriageway; also northbound carriageway closed N of access to Blackwood. M73: Outside lane closed junction 2 (northbound link to M8) near Glasgow.

*Information supplied by the AA*

### *Rail*

British Rail are operating special services with many extra trains over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Passengers are advised to check train times before travelling. A day by day guide to the general level of services is:

December 24: Tuesday service with some extra trains in the early part of the day, although some evening business and commuter trains will not run. There will be no late evening or overnight services. The system will close down at 11pm – most trains will start their last journeys some time before then.

December 25–26: No services.

December 27: A Friday service will start from around 8am but some peak hour trains will not run.

December 28: Normal Saturday service.

December 29: Normal Sunday service.

December 30: Monday service with relief trains for returning travelers although some business trains will not run.

December 31: Tuesday service; some business trains cancelled; some services on some routes particularly to Scotland. No overnight trains.

January 1: In England and Wales a Wednesday service will operate on most lines from around 8am. Some local lines will have a Sunday or no service. No trains in Scotland.

January 2: Thursday service; relief trains in England and Wales; limited service will operate on main routes only in Scotland.

January 3: Normal Friday service; additional trains for returning holidaymakers, particularly from Scotland.

## Weather

London, SE, E England, East anglia: Rain in places at first, dry for a time then further rain from the West; wind SW moderate becoming fresh or strong; max temp 8C (46F).

NW, central N England, Midlands, N Wales, Isle of Man: Becoming dull and wet then clearer though showery later; wind SW fresh or strong, gales in exposed places; max temp 8C (46F).

Channel Islands: Cloudy, rain at times, clearer showery weather later; wind SW fresh or strong, increasing gale at times; max temp 10C (50F).

SW England, S Wales: Rain, becoming brighter with showers; wind SW strong or gale moderating later; max temp 11C (52F).

Lake District, NE England, Borders, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Bright at first, becoming dull and wet; wind S fresh becoming SW strong occasionally gale later; max temp 8C (46F).

Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Bright or sunny intervals, becoming cloudy, rain later; wind S light or moderate, becoming SE fresh or strong then SW later; max temp 7C (45F).

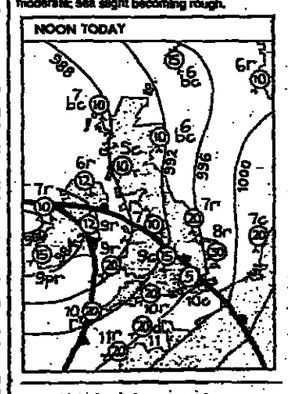
Central Highlands, NW Scotland: Bright intervals at first, showers, more general rain later; wind S or SE moderate increasing fresh or strong and becoming SW later; max temp 8C (46F).

Orkney, Shetland: Showers, bright or sunny periods, perhaps some rain later in evening; wind S moderate; max temp 6C (43F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Bright or sunny intervals, but also showers or longer outbreaks of rain; becoming colder with some sleet or snow over N areas later.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind S strong perhaps gale; occasional rain; visibility moderate or poor; sea very rough. Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind S strong occasionally gale; occasional rain; visibility moderate with fog patches becoming good; sea very rough. St George's Channel: Wind S fresh or strong; occasional rain; visibility poor becoming good; sea moderate or rough. Irish Sea: Wind S moderate increasing strong; occasional rain; visibility good becoming moderate; sea slight becoming rough.

NOON TODAY



## Lighting-up time

TODAY

London 4.25 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.35 pm to 7.45 am
Edinburgh 4.11 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.23 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.54 pm to 7.50 am

TOMORROW

London 4.26 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.36 pm to 7.45 am
Edinburgh 4.12 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.24 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.54 pm to 7.51 am

## Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

| | C | F | | C | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belfast | f | 7 | 45 | Guernsey | s | 10 | 50 |
| Birmingham | f | 8 | 46 | Inverness | f | 5 | 41 |
| Blackpool | s | 9 | 48 | Jersey | f | 9 | 48 |
| Bristol | s | 9 | 48 | London | s | 11 | 52 |
| Cardiff | f | 9 | 48 | Manchester | f | 9 | 48 |
| Edinburgh | s | 7 | 45 | Newcastle | f | 8 | 46 |
| Glasgow | c | 7 | 45 | Ronaldsway | s | 9 | 48 |

## London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 11C (52F); min 6pm to 6am, 7C (45F). Humidity: 6pm, 74 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 9pm 4.8hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 1,007.9 millibars, falling.
1000 millibars = 29.53in.

## Highest and lowest

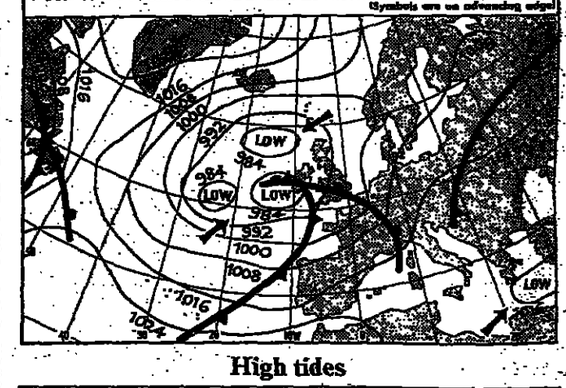
Yesterday: Highest day temps: London Weather Centre, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Lossiemouth, SC (41F); highest rainfall: Stornoway, 0.81in; highest sunshine: Bristol, Cromer, 6hr.

## Snow reports

| | Depth (cm) L | U | Conditions Piste | Off Piste | Runs to resort | Weather (5 pm) | °C |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria: | | | | | | | |
| Kitzbühel | 5 | 35 | fair | poor | closed | sun | 5 |
| *Fair skiing but patchy* | | | | | | | |
| Obergurgl | 30 | 50 | fair | varied | closed | fine | 2 |
| *South facing slopes icy* | | | | | | | |
| Solden | 10 | 40 | fair | varied | closed | fine | 2 |
| South facing slopes icy | | | | | | | |
| France: | | | | | | | |
| Flaine | 5 | 40 | bad | varied | art | cloud | 2 |
| Three lifts open | | | | | | | |
| Morzine | 0 | 10 | worn | none | closed | fair | 12 |
| *Skiing limited to a few runs* | | | | | | | |
| Tignes | 20 | 60 | bad | varied | closed | cloud | 1 |
| Worn patches on most slopes | | | | | | | |
| Val Thorens | 10 | 50 | worn | crust | closed | cloud | 0 |
| Light snow flurries | | | | | | | |
| Switzerland: | | | | | | | |
| Davos | 10 | 80 | good | varied | closed | sun | −2 |
| Good skiing on Parsenn | | | | | | | |
| Grindelwald | 5 | 10 | closed | poor | closed | fine | −4 |
| snow desperately needed | | | | | | | |
| Murren | 5 | 40 | poor | none | closed | fine | 0 |
| Limited skiing on higher slopes | | | | | | | |
| Verbier | 1 | 35 | rocky | none | closed | cloud | 4 |
| Only glacier skiing possible | | | | | | | |
| Zermatt | 0 | 10 | worn | none | closed | cloud | 2 |
| Skiing on glacier and Sunnegga | | | | | | | |

*In the above reports, supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes and art = artificial. Other snow reports page 18.*

NOON TODAY *Pressure is shown in millibars* FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded *Symbols are on advancing edge*



## High tides

| TODAY | AM | HT | PM | HT | TOMORROW | AM | HT | PM | HT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| London Bridge | 11.58 | 6.2 | — | — | London Bridge | 12.25 | 6.4 | 12.41 | 6.3 |
| Aberdeen | 11.43 | 3.7 | 11.51 | 11.5 | Aberdeen | | | 12.13 | 11.9 |
| Avonmouth | 5.01 | 11.3 | 5.29 | 11.6 | Avonmouth | 5.50 | 11.7 | 6.14 | 11.9 |
| Belfast | 9.17 | 3.1 | 9.32 | 3.1 | Belfast | 9.55 | 3.2 | 10.10 | 3.1 |
| Cardiff | 4.46 | 10.5 | 5.14 | 10.8 | Cardiff | 5.35 | 10.9 | 5.59 | 11.1 |
| Devonport | 3.35 | 4.9 | 3.52 | 4.9 | Devonport | 4.20 | 5.1 | 4.38 | 5.0 |
| Dover | 8.10 | 5.5 | 8.42 | 5.6 | Dover | 8.53 | 6.0 | 10.23 | 6.1 |
| Falmouth | 3.05 | 4.7 | 3.22 | 4.7 | Falmouth | 3.50 | 4.9 | 4.08 | 4.8 |
| Glasgow | 11.04 | 4.5 | 11.31 | 4.5 | Glasgow | 11.48 | 4.8 | | |
| Harwich | 9.56 | 3.5 | 10.23 | 3.5 | Harwich | 10.36 | 3.6 | 11.00 | 3.6 |
| Holyhead | 8.34 | 4.8 | 8.44 | 4.8 | Holyhead | 9.10 | 5.0 | 9.24 | 4.9 |
| Hull | 4.10 | 6.4 | 4.45 | 6.4 | Hull | 4.55 | 6.5 | 5.22 | 6.6 |
| Ilfracombe | 3.52 | 7.7 | 4.14 | 7.9 | Ilfracombe | 4.34 | 8.0 | 4.55 | 8.1 |
| Leith | 12.16 | 4.7 | 12.51 | 4.8 | Leith | 1.03 | 4.8 | 1.33 | 4.9 |
| Liverpool | 9.18 | 8.0 | 9.35 | 8.2 | Liverpool | 9.57 | 8.3 | 10.18 | 8.4 |
| Lowestoft | 7.13 | 2.2 | 8.04 | 2.2 | Lowestoft | 8.01 | 2.2 | 8.39 | 2.2 |
| Margate | 9.58 | 4.2 | 10.34 | 4.3 | Margate | 10.43 | 4.3 | 11.09 | 4.4 |
| Milford Haven | 4.14 | 5.8 | 4.34 | 5.9 | Milford Haven | 4.57 | 6.0 | 5.16 | 6.1 |
| Newquay | 3.08 | 5.9 | 3.28 | 6.0 | Newquay | 3.50 | 6.1 | 4.08 | 6.2 |
| Oban | 3.48 | 3.3 | 4.06 | 3.6 | Oban | 4.47 | 3.5 | 4.45 | 3.7 |
| Penzance | 2.40 | 4.9 | 2.58 | 4.9 | Penzance | 3.22 | 5.2 | 3.38 | 5.1 |
| Portland | 4.24 | 1.8 | 4.57 | 1.7 | Portland | 5.13 | 1.9 | 5.41 | 1.8 |
| Portsmouth | 8.29 | 4.3 | 10.00 | 4.2 | Portsmouth | 10.09 | 4.4 | 10.39 | 4.3 |
| Shoreham | 9.09 | 5.3 | 9.38 | 5.3 | Shoreham | 9.51 | 5.5 | 10.19 | 5.5 |
| Southampton | 9.05 | 4.0 | 9.28 | 3.9 | Southampton | 9.42 | 4.1 | 10.06 | 4.1 |
| Swansea | 4.17 | 8.1 | 4.38 | 8.2 | Swansea | 4.56 | 8.4 | 5.19 | 8.4 |
| Tees | 1.33 | 4.7 | 2.08 | 4.8 | Tees | 2.15 | 4.8 | 2.42 | 4.9 |
| Walton-on-Naze | 9.43 | 3.6 | 10.12 | 3.7 | Walton-on-Naze | 10.27 | 3.7 | 10.48 | 3.8 |

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.280ft.

TODAY



Sun rises: 8.06 am Sun sets: 3.55 pm
Moon sets: 5.31 am Moon rises: 1.42 pm
Full Moon: December 27.

TOMORROW:



Sun rises: 8.06 am Sun sets: 3.56 pm
Moon sets: 6.43 am Moon rises: 2.08 pm
Full Moon: December 27.

## Around Britain

| | Sun hrs | Rain in | Max C | Max F | | Sun hrs | Rain in | Max C | Max F | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scarboro | 4.1 | – | 8 | 46 | Sunny | Ilfracombe | – | .06 | 10 | 50 | Showers |
| Bridlington | – | – | 8 | 46 | Sunny | Teeby | 3.2 | .16 | 10 | 50 | Sunny |
| Cromer | 6.0 | – | 9 | 48 | Sunny | Colwyn Bay | 3.2 | .16 | 10 | 50 | Sunny |
| Lowestoft | 3.5 | .01 | 9 | 48 | Sunny | Southport | 2.5 | – | 9 | 48 | Sunny |
| Gt Yarmouth | 4.9 | – | 9 | 48 | Sunny | Morecambe | 1.2 | .17 | 9 | 48 | Hail |
| Margate | 4.5 | – | 10 | 50 | Bright | Douglas | 0.8 | .08 | 9 | 48 | Showers |
| Folkestone | 3.5 | .01 | 11 | 52 | Bright | London (Clat) | 4.6 | – | 11 | 52 | Sunny |
| Hastings | 2.8 | .07 | 10 | 50 | Showers | B'ham (Airp) | 2.9 | – | 8 | 46 | Bright |
| Eastbourne | 2.6 | .13 | 11 | 52 | Showers | Bristol (City) | 6.0 | – | 10 | 50 | Sunny |
| Brighton | 2.0 | .11 | 10 | 50 | Hail rain | Cardiff (City) | 5.0 | .01 | 10 | 50 | Showers |
| Worthing | 2.1 | .11 | 10 | 50 | Showers | Aberporth | 3.2 | .12 | 10 | 50 | Bright |
| Littlehampton | 3.2 | .04 | 11 | 52 | Bright | Tyrrell (Airp) | 1.1 | .07 | 9 | 48 | Bright |
| Bognor R | 3.9 | .04 | 11 | 52 | Showers | Manchester | 1.5 | .01 | 8 | 46 | Hail |
| Southsea | 4.8 | .02 | 11 | 52 | Sunny | Nottingham | 4.5 | – | 8 | 46 | Sunny |
| Sandown | 3.5 | .08 | 10 | 50 | Bright | N'cstle-Tyne | 2.3 | – | 8 | 46 | Bright |
| Shanklin | 3.9 | .07 | 10 | 50 | Bright | Carlisle | 5.0 | .07 | 10 | 50 | Showers |
| Bournemouth | 3.1 | .07 | 10 | 50 | Hail | Eskdalemuir | – | .07 | 6 | 43 | Showers |
| Poole | 3.5 | – | 11 | 52 | Bright | Prestwick | 1.6 | .01 | 8 | 46 | Bright |
| Swanage | 4.0 | .13 | 11 | 52 | Showers | Glasgow | 0.3 | .05 | 8 | 46 | Showers |
| Weymouth | 4.0 | .01 | 11 | 52 | Bright | Tiree | 0.4 | .12 | 9 | 48 | Hail |
| Exmouth | 4.5 | .06 | 10 | 50 | Sunny | Stornoway | – | .81 | 8 | 46 | Showers |
| Teignmouth | 4.8 | .08 | 10 | 50 | Sunny | Lerwick | 0.6 | – | 6 | 43 | Cloudy |
| Torquay | 3.8 | .05 | 10 | 50 | Showers | Wick | 3.0 | – | 7 | 45 | Sunnyers |

## Abroad

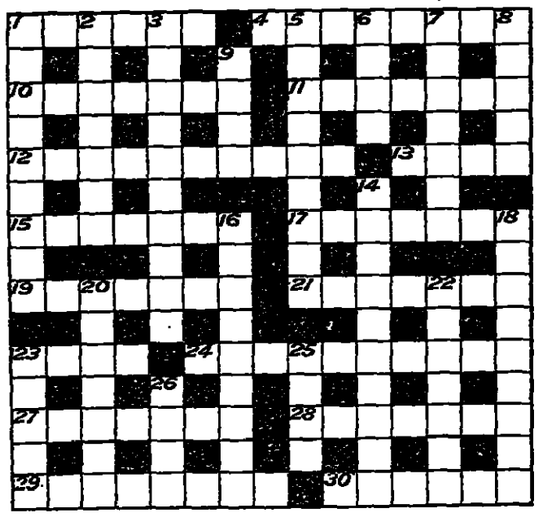
MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

| | C | F | | | C | F | | | C | F | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ajaccio | f | 16 | 61 | Cologne | s | 7 | 45 | Majorca | f | 13 | 55 |
| Alicante | s | 15 | 59 | Copenhgn | c | 5 | 41 | Malaga | f | 15 | 59 |
| Amsterdam | c | 10 | 50 | Corfu | s | 14 | 57 | Malta | f | 16 | 61 |
| Algiers | s | 18 | 64 | Dublin | f | 8 | 46 | Melbourne | c | 17 | 63 |
| Amsterdam | c | 6 | 43 | Dubrovnik | s | 11 | 52 | Mexico C | | | |
| Athens | f | 7 | 45 | Faro | s | 16 | 61 | Miami | s | 23 | 73 |
| Bahrain | f | 28 | 72 | Florence | s | 8 | 46 | Montreal | f | 0 | 32 |
| Barbados | s | 27 | 81 | Frankfurt | c | 2 | 36 | Moscow | c | 2 | 36 |
| Barcelona | f | 10 | 50 | Funchal | c | 19 | 66 | Nairobi | s | 29 | 84 |
| Beirut | | | | Geneva | c | 3 | 37 | Munich | c | 4 | 39 |
| Belgrade | s | 6 | 43 | Gibraltar | f | 15 | 59 | Nairobi | f | 29 | 84 |
| Berlin | s | 7 | 45 | Helsinki | r | 2 | 36 | Naples | s | 13 | 55 |
| Bermuda | f | 20 | 68 | Hong Kong | s | 18 | 64 | New Delhi | s | 20 | 68 |
| Biarritz | f | 10 | 50 | Innsbruck | s | 6 | 43 | New York | s | 4 | 25 |
| Bologna | c | 5 | 41 | Istanbul | f | 9 | 48 | Nice | f | 7 | 45 |
| Bordeaux | f | 11 | 52 | Jeddah | c | 27 | 81 | Oslo | s | 1 | 34 |
| Brussels | s | 8 | 46 | Jo'burg | c | 19 | 66 | Paris | s | 8 | 46 |
| Budapest | s | 2 | 36 | Karachi | s | 24 | 75 | Peking | c | 1 | 34 |
| Buen Aires | f | 27 | 81 | Las Palmas | f | 20 | 68 | Perth | s | 32 | 90 |
| Cairo | f | 15 | 59 | Lisbon | f | 13 | 55 | Prague | c | 0 | 32 |
| Cape Tn | s | 21 | 70 | Locarno | c | 2 | 36 | Reykjavik | c | 0 | 32 |
| Calgary | s | 12 | 54 | L Angeles | f | 28 | 82 | Rhodes | f | 12 | 54 |
| Chicago | s | −1 | 30 | Luxemburg | s | 7 | 45 | Riyadh | s | 23 | 73 |
| Ch'church | c | 17 | 63 | Madrid | f | 7 | 45 | Rio de Jan | c | 24 | 75 |

Rome s 10 50
Salzburg f 5 41
San Pablo* f 22 84
S Francisco* s 7 45
Santiago* s 28 82
Seoul s 3 37
Singapore f 26 77
Stockholm f 3 37
Strasbourg c 3 37
Sydney f 18 64
Tangier f 17 63
Tel Aviv c 15 59
Tenerife f 20 68
Tokyo f 10 50
Toronto* s 0 32
Tunis s 16 61
Valencia s 14 57
Vancouver* c 9 48
Venice c 3 37
Vienna c 3 37
Warsaw s 5 41
Washington* c −1 30
Wellington* r 17 63
Zurich s 2 36

*denotes Sunday's figures are latest available.

## The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,928



ACROSS

1 Clydeside Moll? (6).
4 Not an "in" novelist (8).
10 Animadversion that is indeed continental (7).
11 Member of neat family in American city (7).
12 Nothing was misrepresented by this young feller (10).
13 Forfeit sterling (4).
15 One whose final charge is legal? (7).
17 Opsimath is late one to be a money-winner (7).
19 Telephone rent is an overhead item (7).
21 Dance record follows arrangement of notes (7).
23 Hide a little lower (4).
24 Means of raising capital for an author (4,6).
27 Open admission of one who is under treatment (7).
28 An extra headlight? (7).
29 Defective tyres can produce strain (8).
30 Fellow in felt cap is deprived of hope (6).

DOWN

1 Retire oversea to an isolated place (9).
2 Vengeance seems in